



The Power of Prophetic Decrees

**Bible Teaching
By Scott McConaughey**

THE POWER OF PROPHETIC DECREES

*You will decree a thing and it will
be established for you. Job 22:28*

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by Scott McConaughey

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INTRODUCTION

Learning the power of prophetic decrees will change your life forever. It will enable you to partner with God to accomplish aspects of His will on earth. Prophetic decrees enable you to take the promised land of your inheritance in Christ. Prophetic decrees empower you to walk in your destiny.

A decree is an authoritative declaration or order having the force of law behind it. Judges, authorities, legislatures, governments and courts make various decrees that become laws and are backed up by the power of the government. A prophetic decree is a specific word given to you by the Spirit of God so that God can establish legal rights in the spiritual realm around your life so that He can bring His will from heaven to earth. Prophetic decrees of the Spirit are backed up by the government of God and His infinite power.

Jesus made a prophetic decree when He said, “Be gone Satan, for it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only’” (Matthew 4:10?). As a man under great temptation and testing, Jesus overcame the assaults of Satan by declaring in each temptation the specific Bible verse that the Spirit of God told Him to declare. In agreement with the Spirit and the word of God, Jesus made the decree and the Father’s infinite authority and power backed Him up from Heaven. Satan fled from Jesus.

The Holy Spirit speaks in prophetic communication to give His people “words” to decree. Prophetic communication may come in many ways and forms. A primary way the Spirit communicates is by flowing scripture verses or key phrases from the Bible to your mind as He did with Jesus. The Holy Spirit also communicates through dreams, visions, trances, a still small voice, prophetic words, the audible voice of God, angels, dark sayings, and various other prophetic experiences and encounters.

When God gives you a specific word by His Spirit, confirmed in the word of God, you can pray it and decree it by faith that God will watch over His word to perform it. God will do His word on behalf of those who enter into partnership with Him and operate by His covenant promises and principles.

In this book, I will share the basic truths regarding prophetic decrees. If you will study these truths and apply them to your life, you will see miraculous changes in your life. You will partner with God to advance His kingdom especially as it concerns your ministry and sphere of influence.

Death and Life are in the Power of the Tongue

A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; from the produce of his lips he shall be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. Proverbs 18:20,21

Solomon taught us that the tongue held the power of life and death. The tongue is a spiritual tool for God's glory or for Satan's destructive works. It is important to learn just how important our speech is in determining our future. The words that we speak are like seeds. They can plant good things or bad things. Whatever we sow with our mouth, we will reap its fruit whether good or evil. The more anointing we are under when we speak, the more powerful our words become.

The Bible teaches that the mouth is like a bow and words are like arrows that are shot into the heavenly realm (Jeremiah 9:3,8; Psalm 64:1-4; 18:13,14). The words that you speak have the potential to bear fruit for good or evil according to what you say. If you love the Lord and His words, speak His words in faith in the timing of the Holy Spirit and God will produce abundant good fruit through them. You will be completely satisfied and blessed by speaking God's words. This may require persevering faith declarations over an extended period of time, but God is faithful and will bring to pass those words He has given to you as you partner with Him.

Every believer needs to learn how to bear good fruit through anointed prophetic decrees. A righteous decree is an anointed declaration of truth that has power in the spirit realm to manifest into the natural realm. You can completely fulfill your high calling in Christ by learning how to use the power of the tongue for overcoming the enemy and bringing forth God's life.

One of the most powerfully anointed men who ever lived was Balaam, the prophet from Beor. He had a relationship with God and knew how to get into God's presence through extensive sacrifice and worship. When Balaam's words blessed someone, they would be blessed. When Balaam cursed someone, they would be soundly cursed (Numbers 22:6). He was so powerful that Balack hired him to curse the nation of Israel.

Balaam's life illustrates the power of the tongue. He was gifted by God and developed that gift over years of practice. Balaam developed so much understanding of the ways of the spirit realm that God had to go to great lengths to insure that Balaam did not speak a curse against Israel. In fact, Balaam blessed Israel four times under God's anointing and prophesied accurately about her future.

Unfortunately, Balaam gave his heart to greed and corrupted the gift God gave him. Balaam allowed demonic mixture in his prophetic gift. Seeking the honor of man, Balaam turned from God and sold himself to the enemy. Balaam counseled Israel's enemies to sow mixture into their camp so that God Himself would judge them. Some powerfully anointed ministers fall into the error of Balaam as they seek the honor of man and allow the love of money to influence them. When they become reckless and ungoverned by the Holy Spirit, they are in grave danger of being severely judged by God (see Matthew 7:21-23).

We must always pursue love for God and the character of Christ above the gifts of God and the power of His anointing. If you love the anointing more than God, you will fall into deception at some level. It is vital to walk in deep humility and pursue the character

and fruit of the Holy Spirit more than His gifts. If you keep this proper order, God will keep you from stumbling as He uses you with extraordinary power to accomplish His purposes on earth.

God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom are legally empowered on earth to act in the natural realm by the words and actions of people. Worship, praise, prayers, oaths, decrees, declarations, commands, vows and various actions are the points of agreement from the spiritual realm to the natural realm for good or evil.

While American soldiers were fighting the war in Vietnam, skilled Buddhist Monks were praying curses against them day and night. Those spiritual weapons could only be defeated by spiritual warfare prayers of anointed Christians and the agreement of the American people.

Unfortunately, many Americans got into agreement with those curses and began to speak intensely against the war in Vietnam. Public opinion has power in the spiritual realm. Some individuals even publicly cursed the soldiers when they returned to American soil. This had a devastating effect on many veterans. We must learn about the power of our words in humble dependence upon the Holy Spirit and only use words for good and not for evil.

CHAPTER 1 – CREATED IN GOD’S IMAGE

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.”

Genesis 1:26a

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
Genesis 1:27,28

Man is created in the image and likeness of God. The Hebrew words for image and likeness teach us that we were created as God’s authoritative representatives and a small scale model of His likeness. As ambassadors of Christ, we represent Him, but as Sons of God by faith in Jesus, our character is to become just like His. We are to bear His likeness in character and do His works as ambassadors. Ambassadors often declare messages and policies of the leaders they serve. They represent the president or the king of a country. We do more than represent God, we are to conform to the very nature of God in our lives and reflect His goodness, love, mercy, faithfulness and the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The first and primary image of God seen in Genesis is that of the authoritative Creator speaking creation into existence. God spoke and the entire universe came into being according to what He said. The phrase, “Then God said”, appears eight times in Genesis 1 and is followed by specific miraculous creative acts involving enormous power over the natural realm. God spoke and what He said manifested out of the spirit realm of His vision into the natural realm of tangible reality.

Our spoken words are powerful because we were created in the image and likeness of God. We are spiritual beings living in natural bodies. His voice is infinitely authoritative and powerful. Our voice has a small measure of authority and power compared to God, but our voice can be developed to be amazingly powerful for good or evil.

Adam was not spoken into existence. Adam was formed from the natural substance of the earth and then God breathed the spiritual breath of life into him so that he became a living spirit being with a soul living in a natural body. Eve was taken out of man and made to be one with him. Together, Adam and Eve were to represent and reflect the image of God. Together in agreement, God gave them dominion or rulership over the earth including the natural and spiritual realm.

Adam and Eve were given God’s blessing. His anointing was perfectly upon them to be fruitful and exercise benevolent dominion over the earth. They would be capable of doing this by the powerful creative force both in them and upon them as they walked in fellowship with the anointing of the Holy Spirit that was cloaking them. We don’t know much about what Adam and Eve did in the garden, but they were perfectly in harmony with God and could speak over creation and see dramatic results.

Adam Names the Animals

Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. Genesis 2:19,20

The only specific work we observe Adam performing in the Garden of Eden is to use His anointed voice to make prophetic decrees to name the animals God made and brought to him. **We saw God speak first and now Adam's first work is to speak.** This takes the "law of first mention" to a whole new level. Any truth first mentioned in the Bible is usually a vital picture of what God is seeking to establish. **Speaking creatively is the first "first truth" in the Bible and God and Adam did it.** Could this be the most important truth in the whole Bible for man to grasp? It is absolutely vital because God Himself has put great emphasis on this truth being first in His word.

The action of Adam speaking over the animals is a perfect picture of the partnership God intends with man. Adam did not create or call the animals to himself. God did all the really hard work by creating the animals and causing them to come to Adam. Then Adam, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, saw the nature God put in the animals and named them. When Adam named them, he was decreeing the nature and characteristics those animals would take. Adam was acting in the image and likeness of God when he spoke over the animals.

Adam did not call the animals personal names like Fido, Spot and Bowser. Adam made prophetic decrees over the animals. When Adam named them, he was partnering with God to seal the destiny and behavior patterns of those species. If Adam had named a chicken a dog and a dog a chicken for example, the actions and behaviors of those creatures would have been conformed to what he named them from that point on. It is important to recognize the incredible anointing and authority God gave Adam when he named the animals. We also realize that Adam was walking in perfect agreement and partnership with God without any mixture of sin or carnality.

Through the power of the blood of Jesus as we repent, confess and believe in the cross, we can be cleansed of all unrighteousness (I John 1:9). **As we become born again, God sows the perfect living seed of His nature into us by the Holy Spirit's presence. As we learn to recon the old man dead to sin and live unto God, our new life is conformed to the image of Christ.** As we develop our spiritual faculties and learn the word of God, the Lord will partner with us to advance His kingdom. **A primary aspect of that will occur through prophetic decrees.**

A prophetic decree is **speaking the words God puts in your mouth** under the power of His anointing **in agreement with His Spirit.** This enables God to accomplish His work on earth in partnership with man who is the **steward of this realm.** Naming animals is the

only work scripture records about Adam and Eve. Therefore, it must be an extremely important work in exercising dominion on earth to fulfill God's original command. God still intends that we grow to learn to walk in dominion in the spheres of influence He gives us. We are given the authority in the word of God to exercise dominion over sin, sickness, poverty and all the works of Satan as it pertains to our calling and life (Luke 10:19).

God wants to restore us in Christ and mature us to a place where we can start reigning and ruling with Christ in measure before He returns. The absolute essential key aspect in this is to learn to do good works by prophetic decrees. In order to have the faith of God to do this we need to better understand our makeup, responsibility and authority.

CHAPTER 2 – PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S; but the earth He has given to the children of men. Psalm 115:16

God reigns in the third heaven where His will is always done. The responsibility of what happens on earth has been given as the stewardship of mankind, beginning with Adam and Eve, and continuing to their children and all future generations. There is a major difference between God's third heaven realm where God's will is always done and the earth realm where man can choose to follow God's light or walk in Satan's darkness.

We are called to pray for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven or as we prophetically see it in heaven. As we set our minds on things above, God will show us His will by revelation so that we can pray and call it into the earth realm. This is necessary because God has given the earth realm into the stewardship of man. God has determined to work on earth in partnership with man just as we saw with Adam.

Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. Amos 3:7

This is an astounding verse of scripture. God so completely respects the order that He established on earth that He will not do anything on earth apart from revealing His secrets to His prophetic servants. The Bible states that God does nothing on earth unless He reveals it first. The implication is that God needs the agreement of someone alive on earth in order to accomplish His will on earth. This became necessary as God's word was revealed and was established in covenant relationship with man. The Bible declares this truth in one simple verse.

For You have magnified Your word above all Your name. Psalm 138:2

All of God's name represents all of His attributes including complete sovereignty and infinite power. Some people incorrectly say that God can do anything He wants to do on earth. The Bible teaches that God has magnified His word over and above all His name so that He has chosen to be limited to work on earth in relationship to His written word which includes His covenants with man. God would never use His sovereign power to do things on earth that would break His own word. Once God released His words as recorded in scripture over a 1,500 year time period, **those words became magnified above all His infinite power and sovereign attributes.** In other words, as God revealed truth to mankind by His word, **God committed Himself to be bound by those words.** God's words found in the Bible created and defined the boundaries within which He always works on earth in relationship to mankind.

God is faithful and absolutely cannot break His word and remain holy and true. God will never break His word nor suddenly decide to operate differently than that which is revealed in His written word. We have the entire written word of God now in the Bible

and a careful study of His word under the anointing of the Holy Spirit is essential for every believer.

God has committed Himself to partnering with man to establish His kingdom on earth. Even though the earth is the Lord's, man is the manager or steward of the earth. Once God delegated the authority and responsibility to man to rule earth, He did not take it back when man fell into sin. God does not violate human will. If man chooses to give authority to Satan to rule, God does not like it, but He allows it because of His word. The Lord looks for willing vessels who will work with Him.

What God Reveals Belongs to Us Forever

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. Deuteronomy 29:29

Once God reveals truth to mankind by the revelation of His written word, that truth belongs to mankind for all generations. Knowing God empowers us to obey Him. Moves of the Spirit throughout history are part of the revelation of God to man. All those revivals and the anointings God has given through history belong to mankind as well. Unfortunately, many anointings and truths are lost over time.

Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things." Matthew 17:11

The spirit and power of Elijah will mantle many thousands of individuals who will be graced to pray and make prophetic decrees to restore all the truths, revelations, anointings and moves of the Spirit throughout time. Again, this is because God has given these graces to man and they belong to man forever. Once they are lost, they must be recovered by fervent effectual prayer.

God's word teaches us how to access lost anointings. If we honor and receive a prophet including any spiritual father or mother in the Bible or in history in the name of the Lord we will receive a prophet's reward (Matthew 10:41; Ephesians 6:2). Honor places us in position to receive from the anointing on others.

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:7,8

What God did for one, He will do for another for He is no respecter of persons. We demonstrate honor for those who have gone before us by studying their lives and remembering what God taught them. As we imitate their faith and conduct, we can tap into and experience the same level of anointing and power that they walked in. This is because Jesus Christ never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever!

Every major Bible character that served God walked in an anointing that enabled them to do mighty exploits in their day. We may be drawn to the life of Moses and the anointing on His ministry of delivering a nation from slavery to the enemy. As we honor the life of Moses, remember what God taught him and seek to apply lessons of the Spirit to our life, we begin to tap into a measure of the anointing that rested upon Him.

This principle works for every anointed Bible character including Jesus Himself. God intends to restore every truth, every anointing and every grace of His Spirit throughout history in the last days by the spirit and power of Elijah. A powerful aspect of this will occur as the Church learns to make anointed prophetic decrees.

Partnership with Jesus

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus invites us to come into partnership with Him. The yoke symbolizes coming under the authority and yielding your will to another. Being yoked with Jesus means that we allow the Holy Spirit to govern our daily lives. We walk in agreement with Him and follow His ways. The Spirit of the Lord teaches us how to walk with Him in a gentle and humble manner. Walking with Jesus produces rest in our souls.

There is no greater privilege allowed on earth than to walk in partnership with God through faith in Christ and obedience to the word and the Spirit. As we walk with Him, the Lord will teach us how to use the power of the tongue properly. His Spirit will help us control our tongues since no “man” can control his own tongue (James 3:8).

CHAPTER 3 – THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. Matthew 12:34-37

Jesus taught us that words come from the heart, the inner spiritual man, and are subject to judgment. Spoken words come from the hidden treasure of a person's spirit man and have spiritual power. The spiritual realm has a powerful influence over the natural realm. Jesus said that the words He spoke were spirit and life. Jesus' words all had living spiritual power. Satan's words have destructive spiritual power. We choose whose words to put in our mouth and speak.

Words that are spoken reveal what is deep in a person's heart. If a person is angry and bitter, influenced by darkness, eventually they will release negative words that defile, criticize and accuse. If a person is full of God's love, they will speak life giving words of mercy, affirmation and blessing. Jesus taught us to bless and never to curse. We are commanded to bless and pray for our earthly enemies.

Jesus said that we will give account for every spoken idle word on the day of judgment. This is because words have spiritual power and come from a source. Your words have a measure of spiritual creativity in them. They either come influenced from above or below. Idle words are influenced from the realm of darkness.

The word "idle" in Greek is "argos" and means "inactive, i.e. unemployed; (by implication) lazy, useless". It is translated "barren, idle and slow" in the KJV. The NIV translates argos as "careless", whereas the AMP Bible adds "inoperative and non-working". Listen to most talk radio for a few minutes and you'll hear plenty of argos words as people ramble on about their personal opinions. Words that are empty, frivolous, foolish and unanointed by God are idle words for which we will have to give an account.

Spoken words have various levels of authority and spiritual power in them and can do great good or great harm. Idle words can give Satan legal rights to do evil things on earth. One prophetic woman spoke negatively about me in front of others. She said, "I hope Scott falls on his butt". Apparently, she was very intense and even prayed this way towards me. I was worshipping at the altar of our church a few days later and got terribly dizzy and fell landing on a little boy who was asleep on a chair. The little boy was greatly startled and screamed like only a two year old can.

A few days later, I got dizzy and fell again during a prayer walk. After that, my right calf muscle tore and then my left. It seemed like my legs were falling apart. One intercessor finally told me that she heard this prophetic woman speak this evil word over me. In essence, she loosed a curse on me and we had to break it off with prayer. When we

confronted her on this and other issues in her life, she decided to leave our church rather than receive correction.

A person, in a moment of frustration, might declare, “I can’t believe I did that. I am so stupid. I can’t do anything right”. Those are idle words and can become a curse. Strong words can program the direction of our lives. I hear some Christian people speaking idle words often. Teasing, joking around, making up stories, foolish jesting and the like can all be harmful idle words. When some believers get frustrated or angry, they can begin speaking negatively loosing all kinds of curses in all sorts of directions. When I hear prophetic people talking like that, I want to run and hide in the shadow of the Almighty!

You’ve heard the saying, “Loose lips sink ships”. There is truth in that statement. If a Christian, who is anointed by God, begins loosing foolish word curses and negative statements in exasperation, anger or bitterness, it gives Satan legal right to act on those word curses unless someone breaks them off.

Breaking Word Curses

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me”, says the Lord. Isaiah 54:17

Words form spiritual weapons. When witchcraft word curses come against us in any form, we have a right to condemn them so that they do not prosper. We can say in faith, “Jesus Christ redeemed me from every curse by His blood. Therefore by faith in His blood and by the authority given to me in His name, I cancel every word curse spoken against me and bind up all sickness, doubt, fear and poverty.”

If word curses do land on us and impact our lives like one did on my balance, we should ask the Lord what caused it because **“a curse without cause shall not alight” (Proverbs 26:2b)**. Sometimes the only cause a curse lands is a lack of prayer cover or ignorance. Some of God’s people do perish because of a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). I had a tremendous lack of knowledge about how the spiritual realm worked. At other times curses land because of personal sin or compromise.

While on a missions trip in South Africa the Lord warned me in a dream that Satan was going to try to kill me. In the dream, there was an open door through which the enemy came and I experienced great alarm and distress. I had watched TV the night before and as I prayed about the dream, the Lord convicted me that watching TV was the open door. I made a commitment to my wife back in America and the team on the field that I would not turn on the TV nor watch any thing for the rest of the trip. This effectively shut the door on what Satan planned to do and we had a glorious time of ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Once I declared openly that I was shutting the door to TV, I was faithful to my word by God’s grace. The spoken word was the rudder that steered the ship of my behavior for

that time. We have chosen not to have TV reception in our home for most of our married life. This has been a great blessing from the Lord as we've raised six children who walk by His Spirit. The entertainment industry has powerful spiritual forces behind it that try to dull our hearing and dim our vision to the things of the Holy Spirit.

The spirit of entertainment is sensual, earthy and often anti-christ. Many movies and some television programs are purely demonic and seek to gradually influence people to get into agreement with darkness. The love of this world and all that is of the world's system is from darkness and we must have no fellowship with it or it will begin to kill our spiritual sensitivity and set us up for a fall. I believe that was the central message God was giving me in the dream in South Africa.

The enemy knows that man is the authority on earth and has creative power in his tongue. Satan's forces try to sow lying thoughts into our minds in hopes that we'll believe that they are our own thoughts. If we take ownership of His lies and confess them with our mouth, we give him legal rights to act on the lie. Any time we speak words in agreement with Satan, we empower the demonic realm to accomplish them. We never want to get into agreement with darkness or empower the enemy.

Satan is always the accuser of the brethren. When a member of the body of Christ criticizes another member of the body of Christ, he or she is getting into agreement with Satan and looses a curse against the brethren. This is a great evil and ought not to be so (see James 3:6-12). Sometimes I do research on the internet in preparation to write books. In some cases, I have been led to look at many Christian sites and a few cultic and occult sites.

What I discovered astounded me. Many Christian web sites criticize other Christian movements and make all kinds of harmful accusations against them. In all the cultic and occult web sites that I visited, I never observed even one of them criticizing any other cultic group, though some of them severely criticize Christians. Satan's kingdom is not divided against itself, but if God's people are divided, they will not be able to stand against higher assaults of hell. Even if we seriously disagree with another Christian ministry, we should never accuse or criticize them at all!

The Tongue Can Release Rivers

The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook. Proverbs 18:4

Solomon understood that man's words come from deep spiritual waters. He experienced the anointing of wisdom flowing from God towards Him like a flowing brook. God has redeemed us to become new creatures in Christ that have a wellspring of wisdom within by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the

Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:37-39

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would flow out of our inmost being like rivers of living water. The Holy Spirit flows life giving words out of His deep waters, out of His well spring to our minds. As we agree with Him and release those words out of our mouth, spiritual rivers are released into the spiritual realm to bring God’s influence and will into the earth.

One aspect of this is praying in diverse tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. There are several different kinds of tongues the Holy Spirit enables. There are tongues that edify, interpretation of tongues, sign tongues, groaning tongues, and various intercessory tongues (I Corinthians 14; Romans 8:26).

Rivers of living water can flow through a diversity of tongues, but especially through intercessory tongues that can be prophetic decrees. These tongues are much different than tongues that edify. I call these powerful tongues language tongues because they sound different and are often filled with great volume, authority and intensity. Often these are warfare prayers and decrees.

The interpretation of tongues is also extremely powerful in loosing God’s spiritual water into the atmosphere. The interpretation of tongues often moves us into prophetic decrees. We pray with the Spirit and we pray with understanding.

Praying in tongues leads to a doorway of revelation and builds up your faith (I Corinthians 14:6; Jude 21). The Lord has given me a grace to pray many hours in tongues and I receive enormous amounts of revelation to teach His word and He shows my wife and me how to pray through the interpretation of tongues. I encourage you to use the gift of tongues often and study further about this vital gift.

CHAPTER 4 – SEEDING THE HEAVENS WITH WORDS

And I have put My words in your mouth; I have covered you with the shadow of My hand, that I may plant the heavens, lay the foundations of the earth, and say to Zion, “You are My people.” Isaiah 51:16

This verse describes the continuing prophetic partnership between God and man. There are many things God wants to accomplish on earth, but He has chosen to work in partnership with man within the boundaries of His written and declared word. God puts prophetic words in the mouth of His people and covers them with the hand of His anointing so that He may prophetically plant spiritual seeds through them into the heavenly atmosphere. Then God will have intercessors pray to water those seeds and bring those prophecies and decrees into the foundations or life experiences of the earth realm.

Many details of the life of Jesus are prophesied in the Old Testament over hundreds of years. These prophecies seeded the heavenly atmosphere around the earth. As intercessors such as Simeon and Anna prayed these prophetic words and decreed them it made contact between those words and the earth realm of their day. Jesus was born of a virgin according to the prophetic word (see Isaiah 7:14). Everything Jesus did on earth was directed by prophetic words and the active voice of God. Jesus prayed fervently on a daily basis to hear and see what His Father wanted Him to do.

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

God’s word always bears the fruit for which He sent it. We can learn to agree with God’s written word by the Holy Spirit’s leading. As He puts His word in our mouth and puts His hand of anointing on us, we begin to decree and declare that word so that God may bring it to pass. There are many Bible prophecies yet unfilled and promises that we can be led to pray for. God’s word is going to bear fruit with those who will believe, agree and pray that word into their lives. The choice is up to us whether we tap into God’s blessings in this way or not.

Let me give you a practical example that you can apply. Most Christians struggle with financial issues and need more break through in this area. When God calls us to walk by faith at higher levels and take expensive missions trips and so forth, we need assurance that God will provide. As I have prayed over our financial needs I often get two promises from the Bible.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Romans 8:32

As I am praying about finances and waiting on the Lord, God puts these specific words in my mouth. It's not always these two verses, and this is not a formula but a pattern. As I meditate on these words and pray, the anointing hand of God comes upon me and I have an assurance of faith and an unction of the Holy Spirit that I did not have a few minutes earlier.

Now, with the words God put in my mouth and the anointing and unction He puts on me, I can boldly make a prophetic decree based on those words that seeds the heavens and plants foundations on the earth. I will keep praying and waiting on the Lord until the finances manifest in the natural realm. In fact, we depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us how to pray each time we pray over finances. It is different every time.

Recently the Lord has given us II Corinthians 8:9 about the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who bore poverty on the cross so that we could be made rich. My wife Glenda and I humble ourselves before the Lord (because God gives grace to the humble) and began calling on God to give us this grace. He led us to shout "Grace, grace, grace" many times. This is prophetic intercession and an intense petition to call upon God to pour out His grace of provision into the natural realm.

Some Christians take a promise from the word of God and begin declaring it **before** the hand of God comes upon them. It is vital to **wait** upon the Lord for His presence and the **anointing** that comes upon you. Without His manifest presence and cloaking anointing, you will enter into **religious striving**. With His presence you contend for the promise by faith. This pattern is seen at creation.

In Genesis 1, the Holy Spirit was **brooding** over the waters for some length of time. The anointing was manifestly present over the waters. God spoke into **that** presence. **The Father partnered with the Son and the Holy Spirit at Creation.** We must work in partnership with God when we make prophetic decrees.

Related to financial needs, after God's presence comes and I feel His empowering within and around myself, I might earnestly declare out loud:

"My God shall supply all of my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. My Father did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for my family so I know that He will freely give us all things that we need for life and godliness. In the Name of Jesus, I now bind up all lack, fear, unbelief and poverty spirits that would hinder the flow of heavenly provisions and I loose the superabundant provisions of my Good Shepherd and call them to manifest on earth."

Under that anointing, I may be led to call in specific amounts of money to pay for an upcoming missions trip the Lord told me to go on. Then God dispatches angels to carry out His word that He put in my mouth. It may take days, months or many years before God fulfills His word. I may have to pray many more times as Elijah did to birth the rain of His blessings out of heaven to earth.

Does it work? My wife Glenda, our six children and I have lived this way for over nine years now. By grace through faith, we've supported three children in college at the same time. We have had some "close calls" and tense moments but our God has been faithful and has always provided to enable us to accomplish all of His good pleasure. It has been a tremendous battle at times to walk this way.

Recently we prayed for provisions by the Spirit. When I woke up, I heard the Lord say to make decrees. Two verses came to my mind immediately. Proverbs 10:22 and Philippians 4:19. My wife Glenda and I got together a little later and shared what God had spoken to us and began to pray. Proverbs 10:22 says **"The blessings of the Lord makes one rich and He adds no sorrow to it"**. We began to decree and declare that God's blessings had already made us rich and then we called His blessings into the natural realm. We prayed many verses and made many decrees.

Scriptures that He prompts us to pray are words put into our mouth. The anointing of faith came upon us strongly and we declared His word with boldness. We also bound up doubt, unbelief, fear, worry and the like. We uprooted Satanic traps, tore down poverty spirits and spoke destruction to every plan of hell. He loosed the prophetic words and outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that we could receive continued revelation to build up our faith and give us strategies from above. It was a wonderful faith building time of prayer. We need to keep praying and persevering in our prayers until those things manifest in the natural realm¹.

¹ Please see my book, **FAITH FOR FINANCES** for detailed teaching on this vital topic.

CHAPTER 5 - THE POWER TO GET WEALTH THROUGH DECREES

And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Deuteronomy 8:18

In this book, we are talking about the power of prophetic decrees and are using the specific illustration of financial needs. God gives the people of God a “**power to get wealth**” in order that He might fulfill covenantal promises.

What was the power to get wealth as they entered the promised land? The power was demonstrated in natural realm warfare in partnership with the Angel of the Lord who gave specific strategies to Joshua. If they obeyed the voice of the Angel of the Lord, then God would work miracles and empower them to take walled cities such as Jericho and kill all of its inhabitants. This was an extremely violent warfare to displace or destroy seven nations mightier than they.

The Promised Land battles are a prophetic picture of what it takes for us to accomplish our destiny on earth today. Your **destiny**, the things God intends for you to accomplish on earth, is your promised land. The enemy resists you and has established barriers to keep you from knowing what Christ paid for so that you won't achieve your destiny. We have to do holy violent spiritual warfare in order to possess the land of our inheritance. Our inheritance includes all the promises in the Bible that are yes and amen in Christ Jesus. Our inheritance also includes the specific authority, influence and good works God gives us to do to advance His kingdom.

New Covenant Promises

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. II Corinthians 8:9

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:13,14

These two passages summarize the New Covenant promises of blessings and wealth for believers. Few Christians have understood this power to get wealth to walk in the blessings that Christ paid for. Jesus bore poverty so that we might become rich! This blessing is by grace through faith.

Salvation is by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ as we put our faith in His finished work on the cross. We must choose to repent (change our mind) and believe in order to access that wonderful gift of grace in salvation. Healing is by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who bore Roman stripes to provide divine health and miraculous healing to those who

access it by faith. Because many people don't believe or choose to access His healing power does not make it unavailable or untrue. Many have learned to appropriate His healing grace by faith in His finished work. The more our individual and corporate faith increases in what Christ has accomplished, the greater manifestations of healings and miracles are seen.

The blessings of wealth are exactly the same as salvation and healing. In God's perfect love, He made provision for our wealth at the cross of Calvary. Jesus died in complete poverty. The Lord, who was infinitely wealthy in heaven, laid aside all His riches and bore poverty so that we wouldn't have to suffer. He loves us so much. He gave us the power to get wealth by putting our faith in the finished work of the cross.

As with salvation and healing, with the heart we believe and with the mouth we confess unto salvation, healing and wealth (see Romans 10:9,10). Again, these things happen as God puts words in our mouth and puts His hand of anointing upon us. For finances, we need to worship Jehovah Jire, our Provider and give all glory to Jesus Christ who made a covenant with us by His blood so that we could call in His blessings.

Abraham was extremely wealthy and we have access to the same blessing that was upon him as we put our faith in God. We receive the promise of the Holy Spirit through faith. The Holy Spirit gives us divine strategies. Since faith without works is dead, we must do exactly the works the Holy Spirit tells us to do in His timing to completely express living faith. This may involve generous sacrificial giving. When we do what He shows us to do by faith and in the Holy Spirit, He releases the power to accomplish supernatural results.

When Joshua and the soldiers walked around the walls of Jericho and did exactly what the Angel of the Lord told them to do, God released angelic warriors to perform the miracles of knocking down the walls. The people of God were filled with faith, but the people of Jericho melted in fear. God had Joshua's band do many prophetic actions such as blowing trumpets and shouting. God probably instructed the angles that when they heard the trumpets and shouting, they were released to work into the natural realm. Again this is a perfect partnership between God and man who comes into agreement.

Once the walls fell down by angelic intervention, the soldiers still had to attack the city violently and kill all the inhabitants except Rahab and her family. God has already done His part for us in Christ's work on the cross. As we believe and apply that faith, we will have to fight with spiritual warfare violence to fully take hold what legally belongs to us.

Sowing and Reaping

Many preachers teach that the key to accessing God's blessing is tithing (giving 10% of your income), then sowing additional money into offerings in order to reap a harvest of finances. While there is truth in this message, it is not complete without understanding the grace of our Lord's virtue in bearing poverty so that we might become blessed through faith. Faith includes doing the word of God or your faith is useless. The word of

the Lord to you may be to give much more than 10% of your income as a basic “tithe”. At that point, for you to give only ten percent would not open the heavens over you since you are in disobedience to God’s active voice to you.

If you are giving under the Law, you are required to keep the whole Law and no man can do that today. Jesus fulfilled the Law so that we would be free to walk in grace by faith in His finished work. If you are giving to an impure altar, God does not look upon that gift with favor either. The key thing is to surrender everything you have to God and completely give by relationship to the Holy Spirit. God is interested in walking in relationship with His people in every area of life.

Jesus taught us to consider the birds in the context of provisions. He noted that they did not sow nor reap yet the Father provided for them and that we are much more valuable to God than birds (Matthew 6:26). Don’t ever think that provisions come simply based on sowing finances. Provisions come from the Father because He loves us and by virtue of Jesus’ poverty on the cross. His work of bearing poverty on the cross is a grace that makes provision possible to those who believe.

We don’t get salvation by witnessing. We don’t get healed by praying for someone else to be healed. And we don’t get God’s wealth because we sow into some person’s ministry. Everything we can receive from God is by grace through faith. That faith manifests through doing the word of God and the good works the Holy Spirit reveals.

The spiritual principle of sowing and reaping is a vital Biblical truth that operates whether you believe in it or not. Sowing finances by the Spirit can activate the hand of God to open and release financial supply. He who waters others will himself also be watered (Proverbs 11:25). But giving is never the ultimate source of God’s blessing, it is always God’s grace!

One powerful preacher was teaching on giving and said that we needed to put seed into the hand of God so that He had something to work with to bring in a harvest of blessing. It was quite a dramatic message about giving in order to receive and perhaps some were manipulated to give simply to receive. If you give with a heart of greed under strong manipulation, God is not bound to honor that. Nevertheless, as I said above, there is truth in the sowing and reaping message and we need to be generous givers by the Spirit’s leading.

As we were praying about finances one time and recalling this message on giving, I heard the Lord say that we should put prophetic word seeds into His hands so that He had something to work with. We began to pray and ask God to put words in our mouth that He wanted us to pray and to put His hand of anointing on us. Soon we felt His presence and followed His leading to put prophetic word seeds into His hands. We began to decree every Bible promise He brought to our minds. In this way we seeded the heavens so that God can bring an incredible harvest on earth. By the Spirit, we sowed anointed Biblical words in prayer so that we could reap a spiritual harvest by His grace. When it comes, we will continue to give Him all the glory for He does all the miraculous work.

My wife and I lived by the tithe, sowing and reaping principle for twenty years and honor this truth. God has taken us beyond that to higher truths to unlock the grace of Jesus at higher levels, beyond our natural sowing of finances into our spiritual sowing by words He puts in our mouth. Whatever level of faith He authors in your heart, believe it and confess it until you see it manifest. Once it is visible you have it so you no longer need to apply that level of faith to it. God will challenge you to a higher level of faith and you will learn to live from faith to faith and from glory to glory.

Pray for the Justice of God to come to Earth

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6,7

God plans to continuously increase His government on earth through justice by His power. Satan is a thief who tries to steal, kill and destroy everything God does and gives to mankind. Over history, Satan has stolen and destroyed many things that God has done on the earth. Those things legally belong to us, but we must pray for God to give us justice from our adversary.

God is perfect in justice (see Isaiah 30:18; Psalm 67:4; 72:10-20; 103:6). Divine Justice includes judgment, restoration and restitution. Divine justice releases blessings on behalf of the righteous and judgment upon unrighteousness (I Kings 8:32). Justice restores what has been stolen and compensates the victim(s) when the thief has been captured and judged. God requires the thief to pay back seven times (Proverbs 6:30,31). God's justice restores what the locusts have consumed when we meet His conditions of humble repentance and righteousness that comes by faith in Christ.

The Ancient of Days will declare justice on behalf of the saints so that we may possess the kingdom (Daniel 7:21,22). One generation gets to benefit from hundreds of years of injustice as seen in the children of Israel coming out of Egypt after four hundred years of injustice (Genesis 15:12-15; Psalm 105:42-45; Exodus 3:21,22; 12:36).

God will lead us by His Spirit to reap where others have sown in history. God made promises in previous generations that will be fulfilled in ours so that those witnesses are not made perfect apart from us (Hebrews 11:39-12:2; John 4:36-38). Jesus taught us to pray in the last days for justice.

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within

himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’” Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:1-8

Jesus is looking for last day saints to get into agreement with Him and pray for a release of divine justice so that our adversary, Satan, has to pay back everything He has stolen throughout history. The thief has to pay back sevenfold, which is a complete divine amount of restoration, even if it costs him his whole house (Proverbs 6:30,31). There are hundreds of millions of souls captured in Satan’s house along with lost gifts, mantles, revelations and moves of God in history.

Through prophetic intercession and prophetic decrees we can join with the prophetic psalmist and cry out, **“Arise, O God, judge the earth; for You shall inherit all nations” (Psalm 82:8)**. As God judges the earth, believers will plunder Egypt and great amounts of wealth will be transferred to bring in a great harvest of souls for God’s glory. God is looking to partner with mankind under the spirit and power of Elijah to make decrees of justice in order to restore all things and make Satan pay back everything he has stolen over all of history.

God is a perfect God of justice and His incredible zeal will accomplish this great restoration judgment during the season of Christ’s return. This may take place over many decades, but since God is revealing it to us now, it belongs to us and by grace through faith we can take hold of it and pray it into the earth realm like the rainstorm Elijah prayed for.

CHAPTER 6 – HOLY VIOLENCE

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! Matthew 11:12-15

John the Baptist walked in the spirit and power of Elijah. His life is a pattern that Jesus highlighted. John fasted and prayed violently to bring into the earth realm the prophetic promises God made in His word and gave to John for his day. Even though John performed no miracles, Jesus said that he was the greatest man who ever lived. John was a prophetic voice crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the first coming of the Lord. John lived a life set apart in prophetic prayer and made powerful decrees.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Matthew 3:11,12

John made a prophetic decree that has yet to be completely fulfilled. He prophesied that Jesus would baptize people with the Holy Spirit and fire. John prophesied the coming judgment where Jesus would completely cleanse His Church and bring a great harvest into His barn and judge the enemy with unquenchable fire. God watches over His word to perform it and He will baptize many with the Holy Spirit and fire so that they can flow in prophetic intercession with the same anointing that rested upon Elijah and John the Baptist. These prophetic voices will prepare for the second coming of the Lord.

Prophetic intercession includes holy violence that is necessary to bring down from heaven that which God intends to do on earth. That holy violence is expressed through binding and loosing and prophetic decrees. Prophetic decrees release the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. Decrees are the arrows of God sent forth to vanquish His enemies.

The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice, hailstones and coals of fire. He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them. Psalm 18:13,14

In the year 2005, through prophetic words and visions, the Lord led me to take a team of four prophets to China simply to walk the land and pray. During that time, the Holy Spirit came in profound ways to utter His voice through prophetic intercession and decrees. The Spirit put words in our mouth to enable arrows of prayers to be released into the spiritual realm to scatter the foe. There are many whom God has called to make intercession so that the underground Church in China can be released from captivity to go to the nations with the gifts God has given her. We felt humbled and honored to do our

part and do not underestimate the value of our prayers to do the work of God by the infinite might of His Spirit. Some of our prayers in China were quite violent.

In order to advance into your prophetic destiny, you will have to take hold of many of the things that God has revealed to you by violent prayer. One of the surest ways to grow strong in the Spirit is to pray loudly and intensely in tongues. Religious demons are set in place to keep believers from praying this way. Jesus often retreated to a solitary place to pray so that He could pray with all His might. Elijah and John the Baptist were found in wilderness places where they could pray passionately apart from unbelievers. We have to find places where we can pray with fervent intensity. This pattern of violence is seen throughout scripture.

Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.” Jeremiah 1:9,10

Jeremiah’s call is a pattern for prophetic ministry. Jeremiah was given tremendous authority through the release of prophetic words. He was able to do holy violence over nations and over kingdoms to root out wickedness, pull down demonic powers, destroy the enemy’s works and throw down their exalted strongholds. He was also able to build and to plant with prophetic decrees.

We may not be office level prophets, but Jesus said that we have **“authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19).** We have authority over all the power of the enemy! That is enormous authority. We have the authority to root out sin in our own lives, to pull down mental strongholds and to stand strong and violently against Satan’s attacks on our lives.

God has given you a powerful destiny to bear fruit on earth for His glory and take some territory for God and your family. The enemy is definitely going to try and keep you from all that God has for you because it includes “plundering hell and populating heaven” as one evangelist put it.

Your God given territory includes righteousness, peace, joy, divine health and prosperity. Our family has learned to war for divine health. We have not needed a doctor for many years because God is so gracious to us and we are relentless in our prayers. You have the authority to take possession of your inheritance and trample on the enemy as you do. This will happen through prophetic intercession.

Prophetic intercession is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to show you what to pray and partnering with Him to pray the prayers and make the decrees He leads you to make. It does require that you learn to hear His voice and see in the spiritual realm what He is saying (Habakkuk 2:1). **Being filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues,**

meditating on God's word, extended times of worship and waiting on God in quiet prayer will help you develop these spiritual senses.

Fast and Pray through Delays

Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come." Daniel 10:12-14

Daniel humbled himself by fasting and prayed twenty-one days over Jeremiah's prophetic word about 70 years of captivity. We know that Daniel consistently prayed at least three times per day. God released the revelatory answer on the first day but the messenger angel encountered spiritual warfare resistance which delayed the breakthrough. This passage teaches us the importance of fasting and praying through until we receive the breakthrough revelation. Often we need to humble ourselves by fasting as the Spirit leads to increase the power of our prayers. Fasting is an act of spiritual violence.

Our consistent faithful prayers empower angelic activity and make breakthroughs possible. If we only pray once or occasionally, we may not be doing our part in the partnership to enable angelic activity to break through with God's answer. Most Christians fail to obtain prophetic words and aspects of God's promises because they get discouraged or do not understand these basic spiritual dynamics.

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint. Proverbs 29:18a
Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18a KJV

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Hosea 4:6a

These verses teach us that without revelation and knowledge, we cast off restraints and are destroyed. The governing influence of the word of God and the Holy Spirit provide heavenly restraint and empower us with zeal and discipline. Godly restraints are boundaries and guidelines that keep us pure and focused on accomplishing what God has called us to do.

When we cast off the yoke of heavenly restraints and wander into sin, the enemy is given the opportunity to yoke us to sin and direct us down a pathway of deception and corruption.

Revelation and visions of God enable us to grow in relationship with Him and walk yoked with Jesus. As we behold Him, we are transformed to become like Him. He opens our eyes to see the destructive nature of deception and sin. We run from sin and gladly

take the yoke of Jesus to walk in partnership with God when we have clear vision from above. Revelation establishes purpose and clear direction for our lives. Revelation encourages us that God is with us and wants us to bear fruit and accomplish goals for His glory. When we have no revelation or vision, we often waste time and drift off course with God.

Years ago, I ran long distance races on trails and dirt roads with ultra runners in southern California. I was in tremendous running shape and was trying to keep up with some of the front runners during the first part of a 50 kilometer race (31 miles). The course was new to me and the race director assured us that no one ever got lost on his mountain course. I was following a few veteran runners who ran with tremendous energy up a long dirt road. After about three miles of this, I noticed no one was following us and there were no more bright ribbons guiding our path.

My vision going into this race was to place high enough in my division to win a trophy. I might have been able to do this except for the fact that I ran really fast three miles off course. I got extremely discouraged and couldn't believe I had made this mistake following such veteran runners. I back-tracked three miles and found a slight turn off clearly marked with ribbons and got back on course. I got so discouraged by having to run an extra six miles that I eventually took a short cut to the finish line. Needless to say, there was no trophy on that day.

Without revelation and clear direction from God, we may follow some well meaning Christian leaders with great enthusiasm and still end up off course. We may follow our own vision or selfish goals with tremendous energy that simply wears us out and leaves us spiritually empty.

When God gives us prophetic vision, we need to pray that vision and decree it with conviction and holy intensity. Many Christians have failed to fulfill their God given destiny because they did not understand the importance of prophetic decrees. God created us in His image and requires that we prayerfully declare things so that they can happen.

You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways. Job 22:28

The ancient man Job understood that making declarations was essential to seeing things established. Light represents God's favor and revelation. God has shown favor to Christians by giving us His Holy Spirit so that we can receive His light, declare the things the Spirit gives us and the grace to wait to see God establish them for us. God has given us the same spirit of faith that Jesus walked in so that we can do the works of Jesus and even greater works (see John 14:12-14).

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak. II Corinthians 4:13,14

What a tremendous encouragement to know that we have the same spirit of faith that empowered Jesus to walk and only do what He saw the Father doing. It is not enough to simply believe, we must speak and declare what we believe. James taught us that the tongue was like the rudder of a ship that would direct the entire course of our life (James 3:4,5). We see God's example of the spirit of faith in the life of Abraham.

The Father of Faith

Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed -- God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness." Romans 4:16-22 (underlining mine)

We must believe the words of God in our heart and then speak them forth. Abram was without child when God changed his name and declared that he would be the father of many nations. Every time the father of faith told people his new name, "Abraham", he was declaring the word of the Lord over him that it was his destiny to be the father of many nations.

God calls those things in His heart which do not exist in the natural realm as though they already did. That is because they are alive in God's heart and mind. God had a perfect vision in His mind of Abraham becoming the Father of many nations through thousands of years of human history. What God envisioned had the potential to become real if Abraham would believe in the vision.

At the time God spoke to Abraham about his prophetic destiny, the patriarch did not have any children. It was humanly impossible for Abraham to conceive children through Sarah. God said that he would be the father of many nations as He showed Abraham the stars and changed his name. Abraham looked at the stars and caught the vision. He may have reasoned that if God could create the universe of stars, certainly He could do a creative miracle in their bodies and enable them to have children and father nations over time. Abraham got into agreement with God and believed the name change and consistently declared his destiny by declaring his new name.

Abraham did not look at the deadness of his own body or Sarah's. He did not put faith in the facts of the natural realm. When He looked at the stars, Abraham was often reminded to put his faith in the word of God and spoke it out giving glory to God. God reckoned it

to him as righteousness. We are reckoned righteous through faith in Jesus' finished work and making confession of our faith unto salvation. This is a pattern of life in the Spirit. God speaks to your heart and you receive it. Then you begin to pray and declare what God has said and He brings it to pass in His time. Abraham saw the beginning of God's word over him birthed through Isaac twenty-five years later.

When God commanded Abraham to offer Isaac on the altar a few years later, Abraham so believed God's promise that he had the conviction that God would raise Isaac from the dead if needed. This led Abraham to make prophetic decrees on the journey that God honored.

And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." Genesis 22:5 underlining mine

And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Genesis 22:8

Abraham held God's promise to bring nations through Isaac who became a prophetic type of Christ. Abraham decreed to his servants that he and Isaac would return after worshipping God. Abraham also told Isaac that God would provide for Himself the lamb. Abraham's decrees were soon fulfilled and ultimately Jesus Christ became the Lamb of God whom the Father offered up on the cross.

Anointed prophetic words and Bible promises that God quickens to your heart are things that exist in the heart and mind of God for you. They are living seed words with spiritual power to be made manifest in the natural realm if they are received and nurtured by faith and the appropriate works including declarations.

It is the heart and mind of God for all mankind to come to repentance and be saved. But only those who hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and respond in faith receive the life giving seed of His word in their hearts. Hardness, shallowness, cares and worries can keep that seed from bearing fruit. So it is with Biblical promises and prophetic words. We need to receive those living seed words into the good soil of our hearts and water them with prayer, thanksgiving, meditation and proclamation until they come to pass.

The Violent Prophetic Sword Comes out of the King's Mouth

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and

wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:11-16

Jesus Christ, the Word of God and King of Kings is pictured in this prophetic vision returning to earth on a white horse to judge and make war in righteousness. A sharp sword is seen coming out of His mouth to strike the nations. Many saints are riding with Him on white horses. **The sword that comes from Jesus' mouth represents prophetic words and decrees.** This is a key picture of the way God is going to judge and make war by the release of prophetic words through His people who agree and ride with Him. **God puts the sword of His words in our mouths to judge and make war in righteousness through prophetic decrees.** **He is the King over kings.** **We are being made as priests and kings unto our God** (Revelation 1:6).

The kingly anointing is characterized by those who make decrees that are backed up by heaven and manifested into the natural realm. When King David decreed that a man should die, that man was executed. When King David decreed that descendants of Saul should live, Mephibosheth was blessed to dine at the king's table and had new life. The power of life and death is strong in the tongue of a king. God is releasing this anointing so that we can partner with Him and achieve our destiny.

CHAPTER 7 – HOLY SACRIFICE

You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. I Peter 2:5

God wants to make us kings and priests unto our God. Kings make decrees and priests offer up spiritual sacrifices that are pleasing to God. I believe that God first wants to make us priests and then teaches us to be kings.

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:12-14

As our high priest, Jesus demonstrated the incredible power of holy sacrifice. Jesus' sacrifice was the ultimate intercession and the ultimate provision for mankind. The virtue of the holy sacrifice of Jesus on the cross makes it possible for the redemption of all mankind who will respond in faith to His holy work. There are many extraordinary benefits to us that were paid for by the sacrifice of Jesus including salvation, healing and provision.

Like holy violence, holy sacrifice is powerful in receiving life giving words from God. We do not seek religious sacrifice or some kind of ritualistic striving. There is no blessing in that and God Himself does not want that. What God wants is a heart wholly given to Him. God wants us to embrace a life of holy sacrifice that lays down self in order to embrace His life and His ways.

Take up Your Cross and Follow Him

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." Mark 8:34-36

Jesus accurately declared the heart of God and the ways of the Holy Spirit. In order to follow Jesus, we must deny self will and take up a life of obeying what God says to do. God is not going to tell us to die on a Roman cross to pay for the sins of the world. God is going to tell us to do something to glorify His name and find our destiny. The cross represents obedience to God's call and will for our lives.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2

We are called to wholeheartedly give ourselves to God as a living sacrifice eager to do whatever He calls us to do. A central part of that calling is to allow our minds to be delivered from worldliness and conformed to the will of God by meditating on His word. We must die to the love of this world system and embrace the cross of studying the Bible and following the will of God. The Lord honors this kind of sacrifice with His fellowship and blessing.

The Sacrifice of Giving

Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen
Philippians 4:18-20

The Philippian church made a holy sacrifice by sending provisions to Paul in order to support His ministry. Paul declared that this sacrifice was well pleasing to God. Religious sacrifices are not what God wants. He wants a heart of love moving by faith in the leading of the Holy Spirit to serve and give as directed.

One of our favorite promises on God's provisions comes in response to sacrificial giving. God is going to water the generous soul who waters others in their time of need (Proverbs 11:25). We think about giving most often in terms of finances. But we can water people's souls by giving them the word of the Lord. It requires a sacrifice of prayer to get into the place where God will give us words for other people. As we release the water of His word to them, He will release words to us that help us as well.

I often flow in prophetic ministry when I pray for people. It is always a sign and a wonder how God can give dozens of people accurate words through prophetic ministers. While we can flow powerfully and accurately in the prayer lines, when it is time to get a direct word from God for ourselves, that can be very difficult. God often speaks to me through other prophetic people or my own family members.

I have to carefully pray over those words and compare them with other words to piece together what God is saying. In the midst of those words, God often gives me the arrows of prophetic decrees that I can pray over and over again until they manifest.

The Sacrifice of Praise

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Hebrews 13:15,16

Praise, thanksgiving, worship and prayer are aspects of acceptable sacrifices we can give unto God today. God inhabits the praises of His people. God often releases prophetic words to His people in the midst of worship. During glorious times of praise at our home

church, I have received powerful visions and prophetic words. I was not looking to get a word from God, I was simply focusing my heart on Him and worshipping Him. He has responded at times by releasing powerful words and visions.

God will sometimes release powerful words that become prophetic decrees during praise and worship. We are not to attend praise and worship services in order to receive prophetic words. We are called to exalt Him. We are called to seek God, to seek His face and His hand. When we seek Him, there are times to press into Him through extended praise and worship individually and corporately.

During these times of intense seeking, the Lord responds and we find Him in some aspect of revelation. It requires a sacrifice of our time and schedules to spend extensive times seeking the heart and mind of God for a matter. God wants fellowship with us and has things He wants to do in our hearts. He doesn't want us to just come with our list and our agendas before Him. We have to lay those things at His feet and fully surrender unto Him. Again, this is a holy sacrifice and He is well pleased with that.

God will release words in due season to those who take the time to press into Him, seek His face and word over matters. Habakkuk set a time of watching in prayer in order to get a vision from God. Habakkuk expected God to speak a clear word to him in the vision. God told Habakkuk to write the vision down so that people would have the strategy to run with the vision (Habakkuk 2:1-3). We often tape record prophetic words or write them down for people so that they can pray them and apply them.

Balaam's Sacrifice

Then Balaam said to Balak, "Build seven altars for me here, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams." And Balak did just as Balaam had spoken, and Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on each altar. Then Balaam said to Balak, "Stand by your burnt offering, and I will go; perhaps the LORD will come to meet me, and whatever He shows me I will tell you." So he went to a desolate height. And God met Balaam, and he said to Him, "I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered on each altar a bull and a ram." Then the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, "Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak." Numbers 23:1-5 (underlining mine).

Balaam was a powerful ancient man who had an incredible prophetic gift from God. Unfortunately, Balaam's heart desired the honor of man and he loved money more than walking in holiness before God. Nevertheless, God used Balaam to make four accurate prophetic decrees of blessing over Israel.

The Lord spoke to me some time ago about Balaam's life. I studied the life of Balaam and started writing a book, which I hope to finish some day. I heard the Lord say, "Balaam built an altar". As I prayed about it and did the research, I noticed that Balaam found a way to get into the presence of the Lord. Part of what Balaam did had the

mixture of sorcery in it, but God still “put a word in Balaam’s mouth” in response to his efforts.

If you study Numbers 22-24 carefully, you will notice that Balaam builds seven altars each time he seeks God for a prophetic word. He offers a bull and a ram on each altar. This sacrifice required a lot of effort and cost a lot of money. Perhaps we would consider it wasteful, but each time Balaam received a clear word from the Lord even though his heart was in mixture. God does not want our hearts to be in mixture, but Balaam’s life does illustrate an accurate principle.

The number seven speaks to us of the divine requirement. We recall that Elijah bowed down and prayed seven times for the rain to come. Balaam built seven altars. We can build an altar of prayer in the Spirit in the name of Jesus. When we build something in the Spirit and when it is complete, God will come in some fashion and respond.

My main point in this section is that we can utilize the principle of holy sacrifice in order to get an important prophetic word so that we have the word of the Lord to decree. If you are called in the prophetic, you have probably done this many times.

When a prophet is asked to seek the Lord over a matter, he or she usually cannot just get an instant word from God. The prophet must spend time seeking God over the matter and wait on God for the answer. It may take three weeks of prayer and fasting as it did Daniel before the response comes. Daniel did a holy sacrifice before God when he sought the Lord for a word. God responded immediately, but the warfare delayed the answer (see Daniel 9,10).

Prophetic people who earnestly seek the Lord consistently may receive dreams, visions, words and sayings on a regular basis. One prophetic person I know gets significant revelation, sometimes daily, that has an impact on people’s lives. There are days and even weeks where I live under a stream of revelation to write books. There are other times when I can’t seem to hear a thing from God. Those can be very hard times when God is drawing me to dig deeper in prayer.

There are times and seasons for everything. I get so used to living under a stream of revelation that it is hard to take time off to celebrate Christmas and hang out with friends doing fun things. I’ve begun to learn to move in the different seasons of life.

As most people are busy with the issues of life, it is important to look for and plan a time when you can intensely seek the Lord on matters. God may lead you to get away to a retreat home and fast and pray in order to totally focus on Him. These special seasons of seeking God can be a holy sacrifice that is well pleasing to Him. Getting a clear word from God is more valuable than all the silver and gold in the world.

If you build a holy altar in prayer and worship, God will come and reveal Himself to you. He is our exceedingly great reward. Knowing Him and beholding His face transforms us from glory to glory. In His presence there is fullness of joy.

And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 4:5

Prophetic decrees come from the throne of God. They can be put in our mouth and released as lightnings and thunderings that shake the earth. They have great power because they come from God's mouth to earth by the agreement of man's mouth. It is a holy thing to be able to enter into throne room worship and receive from the fire of the Spirit of God.

We can enter that place by the holy sacrifice of the Man Christ Jesus. We can offer our lives as living sacrifices in that place and offer up a sacrifice of praise that is well pleasing to our Father. In fellowship with Him, He will reveal Himself and His will. God in His goodness will put a word in our mouth, cover us with His anointing and empower us to make prophetic decrees that will change the world we live in.

The Sacrifice of Humility

Thus I prostrated myself before the LORD; forty days and forty nights I kept prostrating myself, because the LORD had said He would destroy you. Deuteronomy 9:25

(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.) Numbers 12:3

In contrast to Balaam, Moses was a humble prophet who interceded for the life of the people. Moses kept prostrating himself before the Lord in prevailing intercession to save the life of the people. Prostrating means to bow down and to lay on your face before a greater one. It is an act of deep humility. Moses was the most humble man of his day and perhaps the most humble man who has ever lived. He had great authority and responsibility. Moses flowed in more power than any man who has ever lived and yet he was the most humble.

God gives grace to the humble. A broken and contrite heart, He will not despise. God looks with favor on the sacrifice of true humility. God longs to be gracious to us, but sometimes He is prevented by our own pride and self will. God opposes the proud.

Humility is required in order to get deeper graces from God. A major aspect of our prophetic ministry is to be the intercessor for those lost people God shows us to pray for. Moses stood in the gap before an angry God and prevailed in fasting and prayer with deep humility. I believe Moses constantly prostrated himself before God during his entire ministry of leadership over Israel.

I've discovered that when I feel a desperate need to get a word from God during a church service, I instinctively get down on my knees and pray in the Spirit intensely for a few

minutes. After some intense prayer, when I feel I've prayed through a spiritual barrier, I wait quietly on the Lord and He will usually give me something.

When I seek the Lord in my own home, I often lay prostrate on the floor and cry out to Him. God purposely leads us to places where we become even more dependant upon Him to answer prayers that require His miraculous intervention. You never seem to see personal miracles until you are in a place where you absolutely must have them to survive. God hears our cries. Desperation in our prayers seems to turn up the dial of effectiveness. We can't produce that heart cry on our own. If you obey the Holy Spirit in all things, He will lead you to places where you will be desperate for God to do great things.

Moses was desperate before God in intercession. It was the very response God was looking for. Jesus is the perfect One who ever lives to make intercession for us. Even though He is exalted on high, Jesus still humbles Himself to make intercession before the Father on our behalf. Moses had become like Jesus over time. We must learn to become like Jesus also as we humble ourselves and learn to pray as Jesus prays.

The Sacrifice of Prayer and Fasting

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26,27

We need the help of the Holy Spirit to pray according to God's will and power in order to break into the place in the spirit realm where we can accurately experience God's revelation and make prophetic decrees. The Holy Spirit will sometimes lead us specifically to fast and pray in order to break through. I believe that this is a spiritual sacrifice needed to break through at some levels (Mark 9:29).

The Holy Spirit has almost always told me exactly how many days to fast and how to fast. Last week, He spoke to me to fast three days on water only. Once He led me to do a three day Esther fast which is no food or liquids at all. He has had me do a few long fasts as well. Each one, done in the power of the Spirit, is powerful unto God and will help position you to receive revelation and breakthrough from God.

Fasting and extended prayer also partners with God to bring the flesh into subjection to the Holy Spirit. The Lord wants our carnal flesh on His brazen altar and He wants to consume it. He loves the fragrance of flesh burning on the brazen altar as we give ourselves wholly unto Him. In order to gain access into the deeper things of the Spirit and find breakthrough power, allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into seasons of fasting and prayer. It is a personal sacrifice to do so and is acceptable to God when led by the Spirit. If you sow unto the Spirit in this way, you will reap incredible results over time.

CHAPTER 8 – THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:13-19

This passage contains vital truth that we must grasp in order to make prophetic decrees that bind and loose things for the advancement of the kingdom of God and for our benefit. The Father released specific revelation to Peter. Christians agree that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Let’s agree for a moment that the rock Jesus talked about is not limited to that specific revelation, but the “rock” is any revelation that the Father gives you. Jesus told us to build the house of our lives on the rock of revelation released through His words (Matthew 7:24-27).

God builds His church on the rock solid foundation of heavenly revelation that usually comes through His apostles and prophets (Ephesians 2:20). Satan’s kingdom can not stand against heavenly revelation that is declared under the anointing. Peter said, “You are the Christ”! Peter spoke out and testified to the revelation. We overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony. The word put in our mouth by revelation is the word of testimony which is the testimony of Jesus, the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 12:11; 19:10). This is also an aspect of the sharp two-edged sword that comes out of Jesus mouth.

One edge of the sword judges and makes war against Satan, sin and the world system. The other edge of the sword plants and builds by releasing prophetic words for God’s people to pray and build ministry upon.

Jesus gives us the keys of the kingdom of heaven. What are these keys? Spiritual keys are revelation truths released by the Holy Spirit that give you authority and power to enter into new spiritual places in Christ and advance God’s kingdom on earth. The gates of hell cannot stand against the Church as we wage war properly with these keys.

I have a key to my house and a key to my car. Those keys symbolize the authority I have to live in, possess, and have access to my house and car. Those keys enable me to enter my house and lock it so that others can not enter. The car key enables me to unlock the door and start the car so that I can go places.

When God gives you a specific revelation, a word from above, you are being given a rock and a key. If you build the house of your life upon the rock of His words, it will never fall in storms that will come.

God's promises give us keys to our destiny so that we may enter into it and go places with His Spirit. When you put the key in the ignition to your car, you partner with the power that is under the hood. As you operate in the vehicle, you sit in a position of authority and work in agreement with the steering wheel, gas pedal, brakes and so forth. You really don't make the car go, but the car won't go without your partnership.

The white horse that John saw represents a powerful heavenly vehicle. The white horse represents the vehicle of the anointing which carries you into powerful ministry. As you ride on that anointing, He puts His word in your mouth and you can release it as a sword from His mouth to do His will on earth. When you get a word from the Lord, you are given a prophetic key to your destiny. If you don't use the key and turn it in the lock or the ignition of your life, you don't gain entrance into the thing or go anywhere in your prophetic destiny. You drive that vehicle through prayer and obedience to the Holy Spirit's directives.

You don't really make the word happen over your life, God does. But it won't happen without your agreement and spoken declaration. God requires your partnership. You must believe in your heart the word God speaks and confess with your mouth to see it activated into the earth realm. It is a simple partnership that we can do! God does the hard part and we do the easy part.

David was a man after God's heart. He learned the value of God's word and treasured His words above all else (see Psalm 119). David was a prophetic worshipper whose songs are filled with prophetic decrees as well. The kingly anointing on David by Samuel's ministry enabled him to make a prophetic decree to Goliath.

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands." I Samuel 17:45-47

What David declared, he did by the power of the Holy Spirit that was on him. The decrees that David loosed towards Goliath did battle in the spiritual realm. They were words God put in his mouth. When David spoke those words, it released angels to obey the voice of His word. The angels did the work of disarming the demonic powers that empowered and protected Goliath. They helped David accurately sling a stone to hit a vulnerable spot on Goliath's head and gave an anointing of courage to Saul's army to rout the Philistines according to what David decreed.

We are called to take God's keys of revelation and take down giants in our way. We must walk closely with the Holy Spirit in order to do this and ask Him for the kingly anointing to come upon us.

We soon recognize that there is usually demonic resistance in the spiritual realm when we try to turn the keys of revelation through prayer and prophetic declarations. So God gives us the authority and power to bind up everything that He has already declared to be bound in the heavenlies and to loose everything He has shown us that belongs to us.

In the illustration of finances, God has said that He would provide for all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. There is a grace in the poverty of Jesus on the cross to enable us to become blessed and wealthy by faith. The spirit of faith enables us to speak and declare that God is faithful and will abundantly bless us as we continue to walk with Him in the Spirit. There will be good works to walk in as the fulfillment of our faith. My wife and I are specifically called to minister to the poor in the nations. We are called to work diligently as unto Christ and not man. But the most important first work we must do is the work of faith (see John 6:29). The work of faith enables and empowers us to walk in miraculous partnership with God.

When you are believing and praying, you may be attacked by an evil spirit of doubt as you are looking at your bills and check book. But like Abraham, you do not consider your lack of finances and the stack of bills, you consider the promise of God. So you bind the spirit of doubt and anxiety in the mighty name of Jesus and you loose the abundant finances of God's grace and provision secured for you by Christ Jesus.

The Spirit of God may have you face the North and declare, "North, you loose finances to me now in Jesus' name". Then He may have you face the other three directions and do the same thing. Only do this if the Holy Spirit is telling you to do it. When you do as He instructs, you line up in agreement with heaven and God will release angels to work on your behalf to fulfill His word on earth.

God has led us to prophesy with our hands on our check book. Sometimes we lay all the bills on an altar and pray over them. God gave me a vision of laying all of my books on the altar at church and ask the intercessors to pray and prophesy over them. The Lord gave me a vision to take a team of four to China and pay for the trip myself. I did exactly as the Lord showed me in each case and He caused things to happen that were astounding. When we follow the counsel of God, He supplies the might!

Seek the Lord for Prophetic Revelation

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel". John 5:19-21

Jesus continuously sought the heart and mind of His Father. Jesus only walked by faith in what the Lord showed Him to do. Jesus did nothing from self will or on his own initiative. Jesus followed the visions of what the Father gave Him rooted in His love. God gives revelation because He loves the Son and wants the Son to be fruitful.

God loves us just as much as He loves Jesus (John 17:23). We are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26). God wants us to walk as Jesus walked and loves us so much that He is constantly streaming revelation towards us. We have to tune the channel of our heart receivers towards God's heart and mind through worship, praise and prayer in order to dial into what God is saying. Whatever God says to us releases keys to establishing His kingdom rule in our life and for others.

The Lord occasionally gives me prophetic dreams that provide keys for intercession. In one dream, I was shown that a young man we know was in danger of ruining his own wedding through frustration and anger. I called Mark and told him the dream and started praying for him. After the wedding, Mark told me that the enemy assaulted him heavily in the days leading up to the wedding but he held onto the dream and prayed against losing his cool. Mark employed a key and told me that it saved him from reacting and ruining his wedding. I could write many pages of examples of how personal and practical these keys can be.

Wage War with Prophetic Words

This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare. I Timothy 1:18

God instructed Timothy to wage the good warfare according to the prophecies made over his life. Timothy needed to put those words in his own mouth and say them, pray them and declare them giving glory to God and praising God that He was going to fulfill them. Those prophetic words did not exist in the natural realm yet, but God calls those things that do not exist as though they did. Our job is to agree with God's prophetic word and start declaring the things God has said as if they were already done. That kind of faith declaration activates angelic activity to make it manifest.

So then, faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17

Paul was not stuttering when he said "hearing" twice. Faith comes by hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit confirmed by hearing it confirmed in the written word of God. Again, we can hear the voice of the Holy Spirit through dreams, visions, trances, angelic encounters, the Bible, His still small voice and various prophetic encounters.

The first apostles, led by the Holy Spirit, set the pattern as they devoted themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word of God (Acts 6:4). As they devoted themselves to prayer, the Holy Spirit began to speak to them and reveal things to them. They had to check it out in the word to see if it was backed up. Then they put their faith in that word and ministered it by teaching others.

When the day of Pentecost came, the Holy Spirit was speaking in some dramatic ways to the 120 who waited upon the Lord. Peter recognized the moving of the Holy Spirit and was quickened to confirm that it was a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy (see Acts 2, Joel 2:28). People heard and experienced the Spirit's manifestations and their faith was sealed by believing Peter's word from the scriptures.

Pentecost reveals a principle to enable us to receive revelation. The 120 gathered in corporate prayer, humbling themselves before the Lord, fasting and earnestly seeking his face. If you carefully read Joel 2:12-28, you will notice that the Holy Spirit is poured out "afterward". The context indicates that what comes before the outpouring is fasting, weeping, intense prayer, repentance, humbling oneself, corporate crying out to God and so forth. A broken and contrite heart, God will not despise.

This kind of humbling of oneself plows up the ground of the heart to enable the revelation seed of the word to go into good soil. The principle always works in God's time. If you humble yourself before the Lord, rend your heart and fully turn to Him and wait on Him, He will be gracious to you and pour out His Spirit on you by giving you a word of revelation. That word is a key that will enable you and empower you to move forward into your destiny. Put that revelation word in your mouth and decree it by God's Spirit. That is exactly what happened at Pentecost as they humbled themselves and prayed. Peter understood by the Spirit what was happening and declared the word of the Lord. His preaching had extraordinary power to bring in a harvest of three thousand souls on that day alone. Revelation keys are given and powerful ministry is released today as we wait upon Him in humble adoration and prayer.

When God pours out His Spirit on you, He may speak to you through a prophetic word. As you pray that word, He will give you confirming scriptures to go with it. For example, I heard the Lord say to me, "You can have as much money as you have faith for". That was an encouraging word that is backed up by Mark 11:22-24. Then He told me that He was the author and finisher of my faith (Hebrews 12:2). That means that I can not author my own faith for finances, but I have to allow Him to author the amount of wealth I am to experience. This keeps me completely dependant upon Him.

During the faith finishing process the Lord tests my faith through fiery trials (I Peter 1:6,7). During those trials I must wage war with the word that God puts in my heart with that same spirit of faith Jesus had and Abraham demonstrated. It is vital to persevere and hold onto God's word over and above all circumstances and even the occasional doubting words of friends.

The voice of God to you is the beginning point of Him authoring faith. It is the Sower, Jesus, who sows the seed of His prophetic word into your heart. That word will have all the DNA life and power in it to accomplish that word if you steward the word by holding it in your heart and confessing it. If your heart is hard, distracted, unbelieving or troubled by the cares of this world, that specific seed of faith will perish before it bears fruit in

your life. Unfortunately, many Christians lose out on specific promises of God to them because they do not understand this process that Jesus taught (Matthew 13:3-9;18-23).

It is vital that you cultivate your heart to receive God's words to you. Consistent prayer, worship, fasting, wholehearted obedience and Bible meditation are helpful disciplines that plow up the heart. When God convicts you by showing you some stones or thorns in your heart, confess your sins and root those things out by the blood of Jesus so your heart can be humble and tender to receive God's grace by His word. Then nurture those words, cherishing them in your heart as you pray them back to God and make decrees about them by the Spirit's direction. We see a perfect example of this in the life of Elijah.

Praying in a Prophetic Word

And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." 1 Kings 17:1

God gave Elijah tremendous anointing, authority and power to control the natural weather pattern over Israel by his prophetic voice. Elijah said that there would be no dew or rain **"except at my word"**. That is an amazing declaration! God led Elijah to declare this and backed up his word. Three and a half years later, God's Spirit led Elijah to prophesy the release of rain to Ahab.

And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth." 1 Kings 18:1

God demonstrates His partnership with man in this incredible story of Elijah, the holy prophet, and the double minded king Ahab. The Lord told Elijah to present himself to Ahab and promised to send rain on the earth. Notice that God said that He would send the rain on the earth. Earlier, we noted that Elijah declared that it would only rain at Elijah's word. Elijah developed a pure obedience to God and only released the words that God put into His mouth. Elijah's word was God's word and was given in God's time under God's anointing. Elijah heard the Lord's directive word and promise and Elijah heard the sound in the spiritual realm of the abundance of rain.

Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain." So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again." Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'" Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel. Then the hand of the LORD came upon

Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel. I Kings 18:41-46

God told Elijah to go and prophesy to Ahab that rain would now come after a long drought. Elijah heard the sound of the abundance of rain in the spirit realm and declared the word to Ahab. But Elijah was then required to birth that prophetic word by prevailing intercession until there was a manifestation in the natural realm.

God said that He would send rain on the earth. Elijah heard it and declared it. Elijah's words had agreement with God and real anointing power on them. And yet Elijah still had to pray with fervent intercession in the fullness of the Spirit to see the word birthed into the natural realm.

Elijah bowed down and prayed intensely seven times. Seven is a complete divine number. That means that we must pray by the Spirit as long as the Spirit requires to the fullness of prayer that is needed. How do we know when we have prayed enough? When you see the beginning manifestation in the natural realm as Elijah did. This is known as the prayer of faith that James refers to in his exhortations to elders to heal the sick. The prayer of faith requires intense intercession similar to the contractions a woman has while giving birth. Unfortunately, many Christians are ignorant to the need to birth prophetic words and promises.

The pains of a woman in childbirth are coming on for him [to be born]; but he is an unwise son, for now when it is time [to be born], he comes not to the place where [unborn] children break forth [he needs new birth but makes no effort to acquire it]. Hosea 13:13 Amplified

The Lord rebukes Ephraim, the prophetic nation of Israel, because the son would not come to the place where he could birth the promises of God through fervent effectual prayers. Birthing prayer is painful hard work and requires intense focus. If you give yourself to the Holy Spirit and enter into prayer to find the place in the Spirit where He can come upon you to birth, He will help you and bring you into the contractions of groanings too deep for words.

It can take days of intense prayer to start building an altar before the Lord where you position yourself to birth what God wants to bring forth through you. It may require fasting and holy violent contractions of fervent prayer. If you want to see the miraculous promises of God birthed, walk with Jesus and learn prevailing intercession. He will teach you to believe, decree and then pray until it manifests.

Believe His Prophets and Prosper

So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." II Chronicles 20:20

God gave Jehoshaphat an unusual strategy to defeat a massive enemy army through the voice of the prophets. God told them to send the singers and worshippers out first and that He would set ambushes among the enemy.

This is clearly an unthinkable natural realm military strategy. It may not have made any sense at all to the rational generals, but the king encouraged them to believe God and be established and believe the prophets in order to prosper.

The battle was fought in the heavenlies as the singers worshipped God. Once they followed His counsel, the Lord released His might. God caused the three armies attacking Israel to turn upon each other in a violent frenzy that did not leave a single enemy soldier alive. It took three days for the army of Israel to collect the spoils of war.

They believed the prophets and obeyed God's voice. Within three days, their enemy was dead and they had more prosperity than they could have imagined. It all happened by grace through faith. Their faith was alive as they obeyed the word and sent the singers out first and did what God said. As we do what God says and pray prophetic words and make decrees and do what the Spirit says, He will fight for us, give us victory and make us prosper like never before.

We understand today the power of high praise in defeating spiritual enemies. God gave them the key to win this battle through the prophets. When Israel sent for the worshippers the Spirit enabled them to move into high praise that empowered angelic activity on their behalf. The demonic powers influencing the attacking armies were bound in their agreement to destroy Israel and they turned on each other.

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the written judgment -- this honor have all His saints. Psalm 149:6-9

The Holy Spirit will lead us to move into high praise at times in order to accomplish things in the spiritual realm that benefit us in the natural. The worship team at our church is completely moved by the Holy Spirit. They never plan a single song for Sunday morning unless they have had a dream, vision or word. The entire team waits on the Lord from the start and moves by the Spirit. Each week brings a new dynamic as the Holy Spirit brings forth prophetic praise, worship and or intercession. This level of abandonment is necessary to enter into seasons of high praise and warfare. We have seen God do mighty deeds during this kind of prophetic praise.

The Prayer of Faith

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins,

he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. James 5:14-18

God has promised the sick person that healing was available through elders who would pray in faith, anoint with oil and pray fervently like Elijah did. There is no sickness or disease that is too difficult for the prayer of faith by agreeing elders. Unfortunately, most of the church has lost this vital truth. Elijah, a righteous man who was highly developed in the spirit, had to pray fervently seven times for the rain to come.

We have been exhorted by God to pray, lay hands on and anoint with oil some believers many times who have illness or disease. We may not understand all the reasons why a person does not get healed when we pray the first, second or third time, but God wants us to learn to pray like Elijah did and not give up until we see the manifestation. The more you do this on a regular basis, the stronger you become spiritually and the more healings you will see manifest.

God wants to pour out the spirit and power of Elijah upon believers in the last days who qualify to receive it (Malachi 4:5,6). Salvation is a free gift, but mantles of authority and power require training, testing and faithfulness to receive. Elisha earnestly desired a double portion of the mantle in which Elijah walked. Elisha was required to serve for many years under Elijah and he was required to see Elijah go into heaven in order to receive the mantle. Elisha passed the test and walked in a double portion of that miraculous mantle. When Elisha was about to die, the King wanted his mantle but failed the test. We'll look at this closely in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 9 - IN SEARCH OF ELIJAH'S MANTLE

Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, **“O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!”**

And Elisha said to him, **“Take a bow and some arrows.”** So he took himself a bow and some arrows. Then he said to the king of Israel, **“Put your hand on the bow.”** So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. And he said, **“Open the east window”**; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, **“Shoot”**; and he shot. And he said, **“The arrow of the LORD's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them.”** Then he said, **“Take the arrows”**; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, **“Strike the ground”**; so he struck three times, and stopped. And the man of God was angry with him, and said, **“You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times.”**

Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet. **II Kings 13:14-21**

We know that Elisha walked in a double portion of Elijah's mantle. A mantle represents a powerful anointing with great authority that can be transferred from one person to another if certain conditions are met. Elisha was dying and apparently had no apprentice to take over His mantle.

When Elisha was about to receive Elijah's mantle he cried out, **“My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen” (II Kings 2:12)!** Elisha had become a faithful son in learning the ways of the Spirit through Elijah. He was desperate to have that mantle and stayed with Elijah to the very end. There was a chariot of fire with horses of fire that Elisha saw. Horses are pictures of powerful mantles that can carry you in tremendous ministry.

King Joash wept over Elisha knowing that he was taking this great mantle to the grave with him. It is evident that the king desired that mantle as he repeated the exact phrase that Elisha used just before he received the mantle from Elijah. The king was making a powerful request by saying, **“My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen” (II Kings 13:14b)!** King Joash honored a spiritual father and respected the anointing that Elisha had. That mantle could only go to one who passed the Lord's test and was prepared to walk in it. Otherwise, it could be used incorrectly and cause more harm than good.

The Spirit of the Lord led dying Elisha to put the king to the test of walking in a prophetic mantle to see if the King was worthy of it. Elisha told him to take a bow and some arrows and to put his hand on the bow. When the king put his hands on the bow, Elisha laid his hands over the king's hands and temporarily released the anointing on them with the same spirit and power Elijah and Elisha had. From this moment on during the test, King Joash's hands were powerfully anointed to do prophetic battle in the heavenlies.

Elisha told the king to shoot an arrow out of the window facing east. The king obeyed and Elisha declared that the prophetic arrow, which represents prophetic decrees, was **“the arrow of the Lord's deliverance”** in the spiritual realm and **“the arrow of deliverance from Syria”** in the natural realm. **“For you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them”**. King Joash did not understand the significance of this statement.

Under this powerful anointing that was on the king's hands, what he did with the bow and arrows would do warfare in the heavenlies that would determine outcomes on earth. We observe that King Joash was given the word of the Lord and the anointing or overshadowing of God's hand was upon his hands. King Joash was given an anointing to determine the future the Lord intended by His prophetic actions. He was told that he must strike the Syrians at Aphek until they were completely destroyed.

Elisha then told him to take the arrows and strike the ground. With the anointing on the king's hands, the action he took with the arrows set into the spiritual realm the level of prophetic intercession to do warfare. Once King Joash stopped striking the ground three times, the test was over and the anointing on his hands lifted and went back to Elisha.

The man of God was extremely angry that King Joash simply did not get it and failed the test. King Joash should have struck the ground intensely many times to declare that he would destroy the enemy and possess the victory that God was commanding him to pursue. The king probably hit the ground half-heartedly wondering what on earth all this arrow business had to do with waging war against Syria.

Many Christians have not understood the importance of prophetic intercession and prophetic acts under the anointing that comes upon them. As a result we have not broken through to higher realms of possessing our inheritance in Christ which includes saving souls in nations. We have also not learned by the Spirit how to obtain the wealth to fund this great harvest. Some have failed to pass God's tests and are disqualified from walking in powerful mantles of great authority.

Immediately after this incident with King Joash, the scripture records the death of Elisha followed by a unique resurrection when a dead man was hastily tossed on his bones (II Kings 13:21). The man raised from the dead completed the sixteenth miracle that Elisha performed. That is twice as many as recorded for Elijah demonstrating that Elisha had a double portion. The miracle after Elisha was dead confirmed that the mantle went to the grave with him.

God is going to restore all things and will once again release the spirit and power of Elijah's mantle in the last days to those who qualify. God will release mantles to a host of prophetic people who learn to move by His Spirit and make prophetic decrees. These are the saints who ride on white horses and enable God to accomplish His last-day purposes on earth including a harvest of souls of incredible magnitude.

Years ago I was speaking at a conference on spiritual warfare in Tijuana, Mexico. During the incredible worship, I had a powerful vision of Jesus entering the room on a giant white horse. His robe was brilliant red and a crown was on His glorious head. When King Jesus looked at me in the vision, He winked and said, "Do you want to ride with Me and win some nations?" Immediately, I cried out yes Lord, I will ride with You. He has been teaching me for years how to qualify to ride with Him. I certainly want to be faithful to God and qualify to be one of those who ride with Him don't you?

God has taught me many things which are recorded in books and equipping manuals that He led me to write. If you are interested in studying more, check out our website. I'll give you a brief summary below.

Qualifying to Ride with Jesus

Perhaps the most important qualification is simply to learn to love God with all your heart. It takes God's help in order to love Him. As we lean on God to help us love Him, He convicts of things and shows us things that have to be cut out. That is basically the love for this world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, pride and every form of the love of money.

God wants us to cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in our fear of Him (II Corinthians 7:1). White horses and white linen speaks of holiness and righteous deeds. The righteousness that we have is by faith and we must learn to walk by faith in every word that the Spirit of God gives us.

God wants you to develop your spiritual senses by practicing or using them (Hebrews 5:14). Attending prophetic prayer meetings, extended worship services and hanging out with mature prophetic people is really helpful. It is important to sow in the Spirit by praying in tongues. When you pray in tongues, you speak mysteries back to God and eventually He opens a doorway of revelation to you and speaks to your heart by His Spirit. When He does, He is seeking to author additional faith in your heart as you hear the word and confirm it in the scriptures.

I have tried to keep track of all the words God has spoken to me and have prayer journals and have written most of them down including in books. The message of this book was just given to me one week by the Spirit and I preached it on the following Sunday. On Monday morning I began writing what the Lord had given me so that I wouldn't lose it. As I edit this book and go over it many times, I pray that it will stick deep in my spirit. I often reread portions of my books to remember what the Lord has taught me.

God may not have most of you write books, but you can keep a journal or read prophetic books and underline that which sticks out to you. This will help you steward the things God is saying. Pray those words often and learn to make prophetic decrees as the Spirit teaches you. As you do you are in for a great adventure of learning to ride with Jesus.

Perhaps the final qualification is to patiently persevere in your prayers and obedience believing God for the expected outcome. God's time economy is different than ours. Impatience will never speed up God's time table. Patience is actively waiting on God in faith. It is not passivity or laziness. Persevering and zeal is not to move into fleshly striving either. We are called to walk yoked with Jesus in agreement and timing. As we learn to trust Him, we will walk more in harmony with Him and only do what He shows us to do.

CHAPTER 10 – HAVE FAITH IN GOD

So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. Mark 11:22-24

Jesus gave us the greatest teaching of all on prophetic decrees. When you combine everything we’ve learned in the scriptures to what Jesus said, we can understand the truth of His teaching. The root issue is faith in God’s word. Jesus told His disciples that the key to walking in the miraculous power demonstrated when He cursed the fig tree was to have faith in God.

When Jesus prayed and sought the Father, it was revealed to Him that He was going to come upon a fruitless fig tree and that He should curse it. Jesus never did anything apart from revelation from the Father so we know the Father told Him to curse that fig tree. Jesus had no doubt in His heart that when He cursed the fig tree it would wither up and die at His word.

Jesus taught His disciples that if they had faith in God, they could speak to a mountain and command it to be cast into the sea and the mountain would obey them. Since faith comes by hearing, one would have to hear God say to command a mountain into the sea before one could operate in that level of power.

Jesus authors and finishes our faith (Hebrews 12:2). True faith only comes as Jesus authors it. Faith comes as the Lord speaks to us and confirms it by His word (Romans 10:17). We grow from one level of faith to another as it is a process of development as we devote ourselves to prayer and the study of His word (Romans 1:17). Faith often must endure fiery trials before it is finished (I Peter 1:6,7). Faith is a spiritual substance like a seed that grows in the heart until it bears fruit. Fruit bearing faith is pleasing to God. It honors His word which He has magnified above His entire name.

The kind of faith Jesus talked about is both developed and comes upon a person as an anointing. The anointing of faith is the gift of faith revealed in I Corinthians 12:9. The gift of faith is a temporary anointing of faith that comes upon a person as the Holy Spirit wills. That person is a steward under that anointing. We can not control or manufacture the supernatural gift of faith. Even though Jesus walked in the gift of faith many times, there were times when the anointing was not present for Him to perform miracles. The anointing of faith comes upon us to enable us to accomplish God’s miraculous works in healing, miracles and prophetic decrees.

The gift of faith enables us to move mountains, still storms, bless food to multiply and do the works that Jesus did. The Jews of Jesus day wanted to walk in miraculous works just like He did. They asked the Master what they needed to do in order to perform the same kind of works that He did.

The Work of Faith

Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” John 6:29

I have spent many years seeking to apply this verse and believe in Him whom He sent. For us today, the sent One is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is sent by God to enable us to walk in partnership with God. He seeks to bring us into conformity with Christ in character first and then in powerful good works. It takes consistent hard work to develop miraculous faith. It begins and ends with loving God with all your heart and only doing what He shows you to do.

Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? -- just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Galatians 3:5-7

God supplies the power of the Holy Spirit and works miracles among us by the hearing of faith. Abraham believed God’s word that He would become the Father of many nations. Abraham had the hearing of faith. This enabled God over time to supply the anointing and work the reproductive miracle in the natural bodies of Abraham and Sarah.

Mary was supernaturally empowered to receive the seed of Jesus into her body because she believed the angel in her heart and declared, **“Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38)**. Mary also demonstrated the hearing of faith and this gave God the legal right to move into the natural realm with supernatural power and supply. Jesus was born of a virgin as a result of God’s prophetic word finding place to be received in the heart of believing Mary.

A few years ago, my wife’s mother came down with stomach cancer. We earnestly prayed and sought the Lord for her complete healing. We believed that God was going to miraculously heal her and yet she died. She was a godly woman who also had faith that God would heal her. We knew that she went to be with Jesus, but I was greatly distressed by her death. I was very intense before the Lord and sought Him diligently as to what had happened. He showed us many things over the next year or so and we made adjustments and applications to our lives.

In the past year, the Lord has given me three words of knowledge about stomach cancer. In each case, I called out the word of knowledge, a woman came forward and the resulting prayer was extraordinarily powerful. The first woman we prayed for was miraculously healed. Because of the traveling nature of my ministry, I have been unable to find out about the next two women so far but the power of God that touched them was extraordinary. As the last two women came forward for prayer, as I stretched out my hand, I could feel tangible fire flowing from my inmost being through my arm out my hand and into each woman’s stomach who was standing about ten feet away.

God did not have me lay hands on any of these three women but rather curse the cancer and command it to flee their bodies. In each case the power of God moved and I believe all three were miraculously healed. It is interesting that God has given me three recent words about stomach cancer. We thank God for His encouragement in saving lives in this way. That level of faith in me is growing stronger. But it was birthed through much contending, warfare and apparent failure. When I receive a word of knowledge about stomach cancer, I now have a special level of the “hearing of faith” for God to work miracles.

In the case of my mother-in-law, I never had a specific word of knowledge for her, but we contended to pray the prayer of faith mentioned in James 5. This requires persevering prayer to break through into miraculous healing. The hearing of faith that comes by word of knowledge is guaranteed to come with the miraculous power to complete the healing if you move in the Spirit. In those cases, the Holy Spirit knows who He wants to touch. There may be practical spiritual reasons why some are miraculously healed and others are not, but much of what happens in the spiritual realm is a mystery to most of us. We must learn to rely heavily upon what has been revealed to us and pray what we hear the Lord tell us to pray for.

Jesus told us to have faith in God. Whatever God tells you to do confirmed by His word, we need to believe with all our heart and pray, declare and decree without complete faith in God to perform the miracle and supply the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 11 – THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Matthew 13:3-9

“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” Matthew 13:18-23

Jesus is the Sower who sows the living word to human hearts. Only hearts prepared as good soil will receive the word and nurture it unto fruit bearing maturity. Prophetic words and promises of God will be lost to the hardened heart, shallow heart or thorn choked heart. Only the good heart will bear fruit by cultivating the word through steadfast faith and obedience².

Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith. After He sows the word that can produce fruit with enduring faith, we often experience fiery trials that test the depth of our faith. Tribulation, persecution, worries, greed, lust and love for this world will choke the seed and cause it to be unfruitful.

Jesus told the parable of the sower to teach us that the human heart is similar to an agricultural field. We have the responsibility, like a farmer, to prepare the soil condition of our heart in order to receive the pure seed of God’s revelation. Once we receive the word, we are responsible to nurture that word through prayer and prophetic decrees as the Spirit leads. The Holy Spirit spoke to me that the most essential characteristic that we need to cultivate is a heart that fears the Lord.

The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant. Psalm 25:14

² Please see my book, **The Transformation of the Heart** for in depth teaching on this topic.

God reveals His secrets to those whose hearts are prepared to receive His word by the fear of the Lord. God reveals to the humble heart the blessings, promises, privileges and rights we have by His New Covenant in the cross of Jesus Christ. The fear of the Lord is necessary to prepare your heart to bear fruit with revelation received from God. Without revelation, there can be no prophetic decrees. If your heart is not prepared properly the prophetic word will not bear fruit.

All the blessings of God will come to the person whose heart is good soil. A good heart allows the Sower to sow His word into the fertile ground of a heart prepared to hear and obey God's voice. If we obey His voice in faith, He releases covenant blessings to us in due season.

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Proverbs 4:23

The human heart must be tended and kept like the Garden of Eden. This requires diligence. We must work extremely hard and consistently like a farmer in preparing our hearts to be receptive to the seed of Christ. We must keep our hearts from hardness, rebellion, shallowness, worry, lusts and various sinful indulgences. We are responsible to watch over the garden of our heart and prepare it to receive revelation from God.

When one receives the revelation of God in one's good heart and nurtures that precious seed word to maturity, it will bear lasting fruit for the glory of God and to the great benefit to the pure hearted person. There may be no more important duty for the developing Christian than to daily cultivate the heart in preparation to receive God's word.

The fear of the Lord is the perfect heart motivator that enables all of God's covenant blessings, including salvation, health, wealth, honor, long life, fruitfulness, protection, wisdom and revelation to flow to you and your family as a guarantee of God's covenant.

Jesus delighted Himself in the fear of the Lord. He lived every moment of every day to please the Father, bring Him glory and obey His voice. In order to do this, Jesus had to pray earnestly and seek God to hear His voice in preparation to obey. We must follow Jesus' example to fulfill our destiny and bear much fruit.

There are only two kingdom voices on earth competing for our heart affections. There is the voice of wisdom, the Holy Spirit, who speaks to us of the kingdom of heaven and seeks to bring us to a place of walking in perfect agreement with Jesus Christ in the love of the Father. There is also the voice of the adulterous woman, the so-called Queen of Heaven, the spirit of this world who speaks to us of the kingdom of darkness full of self-will and the love of this world. One voice comes from heaven above and the other from the pit of hell below.

Only a heart cultivated in the fear of the Lord will be able to have true discernment and walk in agreement with God's perfect voice. Without the fear of the Lord, well meaning

Christians can be deceived into mixture by the traditions of man and the voice of that one who disguises himself as an angel of light.

God wants to release His glory to His body in powerful ways, but the body of Christ must be cleansed. God wants to walk in our midst and manifest His glorious presence in magnificent ways that heal the sick, deliver the captives, bring wholeness and light to those in darkness. God will not share His glory with us and will not come in magnitudes of power to an unclean church. His promise for last-day harvest of unprecedented presence and power is real. Paul understood this and spoke of it.

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. II Corinthians 7:1

The only way we can perfect holiness is in the fear of God. If we don't have the fear of God we will not be prepared to receive what God wants to bring. God will find a people who perfect holiness in His fear.

We have a responsibility to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and the spirit. This can only be accomplished in partnership with God. God told us to confess our sins and that He was faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9). God also tells us to walk in the light which means we may have to confess our faults to one another in order to be healed (I John 1:7; James 5:16). We won't do these things to the fullest if we don't fear God.

We need to pray in faith believing God for a release of the Spirit of the fear of the Lord. **"He who did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him give us all things" (Romans 8:32)?** The seven-fold Spirit of God rested upon Jesus (Isaiah 11:1-3). God wants to release rivers of the Spirit of God upon His people so they can walk as Jesus walked, but first we must be cleansed.

Lord, I Want to be Holy

The Lord's manifested presence came upon me late one night just before Christmas in 1995 as I was worshipping and delighting in Him. I clearly heard the Lord speak to me that He wanted to give me a Christmas gift and that I could ask whatever I wished and it would be done for me. The presence of God's faith was so strong that I knew that I knew that whatever I asked for would be given to me.

I thought about asking for Solomon's wisdom, but then realized he had fallen into mixture. I carefully weighed my response to God's offer and after nearly twenty minutes of silence I simply said, "Lord, I want to be holy". I believe that my response pleased the Lord and I felt a perfect peace that I would receive this great gift at Christmas of 1995.

When I did not behave in complete holiness after Christmas, I wondered what happened. The Lord showed me that I received a Rhema word seed that if nurtured, would grow to enable me to become holy over time through the process we know as sanctification. It

has been ten years since that visitation, and God is faithful and I am still seeking to perfect holiness. What I understand by His Spirit is that I need the spirit of the fear of the Lord to fill me to be motivated to do my part so that God can do His part.

God has done a lot of work on my heart during the past ten years. I never realized the depths of sin my heart and soul had become entangled in until God began revealing it to me by His powerful light. When sin manifests in your life it is ugly. God will seek to have you deal with it in private, but He will work on it in public if needed to deliver you. I have had it both ways. There are seasons of God in heart dealings. We need to be wise to use the seasons we have for heart preparation so God can use us in greater works in days ahead.

It seems so simple. Walk in the fear of the Lord and perfect holiness. What I've discovered is that there are parts of our soul, hidden to us that are still ruled by darkness. Some thrones in our soul become demonized at a very early age. Strongholds get built in the human mind that requires the power of God to set us free. There is power in the word of God to wash us from all defilement of flesh and spirit. That word is the living word of God, the seed from the Sower that only bears fruit in good soil.

We need Him to have good soil in our hearts. We can cry out in our desperation and confess our weaknesses, faults, sins and ask for Godly sorrow that leads to repentance that leads to life. We can cry out for God in fasting and prayers to deliver us from darkness and give us words of life to wash our soul. God is faithful to give us keys to the kingdom. He gives us revelation to unlock us out of darkness and bring us into His marvelous light. I believe it is important to cultivate this life in the community of a local church.

Don't Worry About It!!!

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:33,34

Worry is a weed that can choke the living word of God and cause His promises to be unfruitful. Jesus told us to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and not to worry about the future especially related to provisions. God has called us on a unique faith walk depending upon Him for all provisions.

After launching out in new levels of faith by God's voice, I soon discovered that my heart was full of worry. As hard as I tried, I could not shake the fear and anxiety that gripped my mind during recurring financial trials. While at a special emotional healing conference the Lord told me to attend, I had a dream. In the dream it was revealed to me that when my mother became pregnant with me, the third child in three years to our family, there was great anxiety and worry in my father to provide finances for yet another baby. Words of fear were spoken about provisions that got into my fragile tiny spirit man.

My father succeeded in business and was a tremendous provider and a generous man. I grew up in a wealthy home and rarely worried about money for the first forty-four years of my life. In order to make me holy, God had to deliver me from this hidden fear. So He led us into a financial wilderness, exposed the fear and led us on a journey of deliverance, healing and faith. God has given us the strong conviction that He shall provide for all of our needs and we have a deep trust in Him. A major impartation of the fear of the Lord was given me to help me overcome this issue.

One night, the Lord spoke to me while I was sleeping in the most powerful voice I ever heard. With electrifying power, the Lord said, **“Don’t worry about it!”** I shook in absolute terror for two hours as the Lord disciplined me for my sinful anxiety and put His fear in me. During the next three days, I carried an impartation of the fear of the Lord and could release it to anyone who asked for it.

God’s word commands us not to worry about tomorrow. Sometimes, as responsible parents, we feel justified in worrying about how we are going to provide for our children. We’ve had four teenagers at the same time and now have those four in Universities and Bible School. We still have two children at home. By the grace of God, He has brought us to a place where we don’t worry about money for tomorrow. God is amazing in His ability to provide once we have faith rather than fear. Ungodly fear blocks the provision of God.

The root of enduring faith and deliverance from fleshly fear was to receive discipline from God and an impartation of the spirit of the fear of the Lord. We seek to please God in our finances as in every part of our lives as part of the fear of the Lord. God provides for us in ways that are extraordinary.

We need more encounters with God in order to receive impartations of the spirit of the fear of the Lord. As you search for Him with all your heart, you will find Him and He will deliver you from captivity (see Jeremiah 29:9-14).

The Fear of the Lord Defined

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7). The fear of the Lord instructs us to hate evil, pride, arrogance, evil ways and the perverse mouth (Proverbs 8:13). Jesus delighted Himself in fearing God. He demonstrated this by always seeking to know the Father and do His will.

Abraham demonstrated his fear of God by offering Isaac. God wants us to fear Him so that He can pour out blessings on our family (Deuteronomy 5:29). The fear of God manifests in perfect obedience to God, walking in all His ways, serving Him with a whole heart. The fear of the Lord leads to great blessings. Not fearing the Lord leads to terrible curses (see Deuteronomy 28).

Noah was motivated by fear to build the ark and save His family (Hebrews 11:7). We are commanded to fear God (I Peter 2:17). God will give us the grace to serve Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear (Hebrews 13:28,29). We must learn to fear God. It is a choice each one of us has to make. You must diligently seek the revelation of the wisdom of God in order to understand the fear of the Lord. We are to be zealous for the fear of the Lord all day long (Proverbs 23:17).

The fear of the Lord is the perfect heart motivator for every believer. Jesus delighted in the fear of the Lord. It means that He lived every moment of every day to please the Father, bring Him glory and obey His voice. In order to do this, Jesus had to pray earnestly and seek God to hear His voice in preparation to obey. We must follow Jesus' example to fulfill our destiny and bear much fruit.

The Benefits of the Fear of the Lord

The fear of the Lord keeps you from sin and motivates you to righteous behavior. It motivates you to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness which leads to provisions. Fearing God enables the healing virtue of Jesus to flow and enables long life (Malachi 4:2).

The fear of the Lord brings wisdom, revelation and knowledge that enables us to gain keys of the kingdom. The fear of God brings angelic protection, deliverance and provisions (Psalm 34:7-10). If you fear God you will be blessed and God will bring you riches, honor and life (Proverbs 22:4). God will protect you in spiritual warfare assault and He will answer your prayers. In fact, God will fulfill all your desires if you fear Him.

The fear of the Lord is the perfect heart motivator that enables all of God's covenant blessings, including salvation, health, wealth, honor, long life, fruitfulness, protection, wisdom and revelation to flow to you and your family as a guarantee of God's covenant.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14

Wisdom taught Solomon that the most important thing man can do is to fear God and keep His commandments. God is going to judge every person for their deeds done in the body. We will all appear before God's judgment throne and give account for our life on earth. Meditating on this truth and understanding eternal rewards or punishments should motivate us to heed Solomon's exhortation.

CHAPTER 12 – THE POWER OF PROPHETIC DECREES

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. Luke 2:1

The most famous biblical decree was given by the powerful emperor king, Caesar Augustus. A decree is a law issued by a king and backed up by his authority and enforced by his power. Joseph and Mary obeyed Caesar's decree and headed to Bethlehem to register and pay taxes. We see God's sovereignty over the decrees of man as the prophecies of Jesus' birth are fulfilled as the Nazarene was born in Bethlehem.

Most of the biblical decrees are given by kings or people of great authority before God like the prophet Elijah. The Lord is making us as priests and kings unto His glory. We were created in His own kingly image. Though we have fallen from that place, by the power of the blood of Jesus and restoration prayer, we can be restored and trained to a level of kingly authority and power.

In order to walk at this level of authority and power, we must be carefully trained by the Holy Spirit to walk in complete agreement with God at all times. Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient unto the point of death on the cross. We are called to walk in His steps. We may not physically die on a cross, but we must take up our cross and follow Him. Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing. He lived and delighted in the fear of the Lord only seeking to do the Father's will on earth. Because of Jesus' perfect obedience, He gained the highest level of authority over all that exists and became the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Authority with God comes by faithful obedience to His voice. The Lord wants every person to know Him and become conformed to His image. However, He gives everyone the free will to choose. Sadly, many refuse to believe and obey the gospel. Even many Christians fail to grow in authority with God because they do not daily embrace the cross, die to self-will and press in to know and follow the voice of the Holy Spirit.

God Watches Over His Word to Perform It

Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant." Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see a branch of an almond tree." Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word." Jeremiah 1:9-12

God is raising a prophetic generation who will make powerful decrees so that He may set us in authority over nations and over kingdoms. The prophetic word of God placed in our mouth will enable us in partnership with God to root out, pull down, destroy and throw down Satan's kingdom. Prophetic decrees of this type empower angelic warfare

activity. **“Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word” (Psalm 103:20).** Angels recognize the prophetic voice of God as it flows through anointed prophetic people. They are extremely powerful spiritual beings that are dispatched by God’s word put in our mouth as we speak under His anointing.

Prophetic decrees can also plant and build the kingdom of God on earth. Just as God spoke and things were created, we can speak the words He puts into our mouths under His anointing and partner with Him to plant and build His kingdom on earth. That’s why Jesus taught us to pray, **“Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).** We must “see” in the Spirit what the Father is doing by revelation and use that key to pray and decree in what God wills. As we learn to exercise this kind of powerful authority by faith under His anointing, we start to grow in kingly authority and power.

God wants His people to rise up and take hold of their destinies by making prophetic decrees. As you pray and wait on God, He will put specific words in your mouth and anoint you to pray them back to Him. When the unction of the Holy Spirit comes upon you, then you can make powerful decrees in faith that will seed the heavens and enable God to do things on earth that He wants to do.

Prophetic decrees have creative power because we are created in the image and likeness of God. Since we are spiritual beings redeemed by the blood of Jesus and are being made priests and kings unto God, we can use our voice to produce life or death.

God is looking for those who will partner with Him since He has bound Himself by His word to work through the agency of man’s stewardship on earth. All of our words come from the heart and have some level of spiritual power.

We have the authority to condemn every word curse spoken against us so that we can cancel the power of witchcraft sent against us. We will be judged for our words so we must never speak idle words. **Because we are anointed by the Holy Spirit, our words have even more power than those who are not anointed by the Spirit. We must learn to speak the words the Holy Spirit gives us to speak in His timing and under His hand of anointing for His glory.**

God promises to supply all of our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus. We can learn the grace of Jesus who bore poverty so that we might experience the blessings of His wealth. We learned that this grace is something we can access by faith. Part of faith is to be a doer of the word. Faith also believes, therefore it speaks. Living faith makes declarations, confesses and makes decrees.

Holy violence in fasting and prayer is required many times in order break through higher levels of demonic resistance. The gates of hell cannot prevail against God’s Church that learns to use the keys of revelation to bind the enemy and loose the provisions of God.

The King of Kings has a sword in His mouth which is the spirit of prophecy the testimony of Jesus. Those who ride with Him learn to put His word in their mouth and agree with Him through prophetic decrees. They learn to wage war with prophecies as Timothy did. This includes doing prophetic acts the Lord calls us to do.

We must learn to pray the prayer of faith and walk in the hearing of faith in the spirit and power of Elijah. The mantle of Elijah will be given corporately to those who qualify to walk in this great prophetic authority. Love, holiness, humility and obedience are key characteristics of those who will qualify to ride with Jesus in the last days.

As we love God with all our hearts, He calls us to have faith in Him so that we can move mountains that He tells us to speak to. Developing this kind of faith is hard work but it is well worth it. You will be able to achieve your destiny and work in God's inheritance for you at a greater level as you learn to practice the power of prophetic decrees. God will also release an anointing of faith at times upon those who have prepared themselves through diligence. This gift of faith will enable those who know their God to do great exploits in the days ahead.